Friday, October 10, 2025 No 280 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Academics, singer in Prashant Kishor's first list

Suspense over leader's candidature as his name not among 51 released

Page 7

Israel & Hamas to swap hostages, prisoners

Page 11

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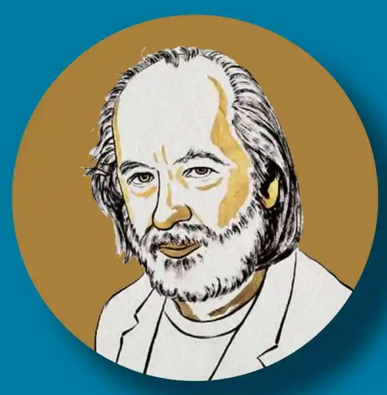
The Power of Good

Nobel Prize Literature

Hungarian writer Laszlo Krasznahorkai won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature on Thursday "for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art". Krasznahorkai is considered by many as Hungary's most important living author, whose works explore themes of postmodern dystopia and melancholy.

"I'm very sad if I think of the status of the world now, and this is my deepest inspiration"



Laszlo Krasznahorkai (Hungary)

Page 11

India signs Rs 4.1-k cr missile deal with UK

UK supplying same missile system to Ukraine amid conflict with Russia

MRITYUNJAY BOSE & ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, DHNS

PM Narendra Modi with his British counterpart Keir Starmer at Mumbai Raj Bhavan on Thursday. AFP

India and the United Kingdom on Thursday decided to take their defence and security ties to new heights by entering into the areas of co-production, cooperation in military training, development of maritime electric propulsion system and strengthening of air defence.

The two countries also inked a Rs 4,136-crore deal to procure lightweight multirole missiles (LLM) for India's armed forces to boost air defence capabilities against missile and drone attacks.

Notably, the UK has been supplying a similar LLM system to Ukraine to bolster its defence against Russia amid the ongoing conflict.

The government-to-government agreement to purchase the LLM systems was announced as Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted his UK counterpart, Keir Starmer, at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.

"We are moving towards defence co-production and connecting the defence industries of both countries," Modi said after his meeting with Starmer.

The UK prime minister hailed the LLM deal with India as "an example of the growing strategic partnership" between the two nations.

▸ Missile deal, Page 3D

Lightweight Multirole Missiles

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- Precision laser beam riding guidance system
- Minimal collateral damage
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- Production at: **Belfast, Northern Ireland**
- Boost to India's capability to deter missile and drone attacks

Lancaster Univ to open campus in B'luru

In a move which will boost educational ties between India and the UK, Lancaster University will open a campus in Bengaluru, the city known for its institutions in the field of education, research and innovation. Nine UK universities will open their campuses pan-India.
Details on Page 3D

Owner of firm that made 'killer' syrup arrested in Chennai

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In a late-night operation, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Madhya Pradesh police, with help from their Tamil Nadu counterparts, arrested G Ranganathan, owner of Sresan Pharmaceuticals, whose contaminated cough syrup allegedly claimed the lives of at least 21 children.

Ranganathan was arrested at 1 am on Thursday by the SIT from his apartment in Kodambakkam in Chennai. He will be taken to Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh, where most of the deaths took place, after the SIT gets the court permission for the same.

"Besides securing Ranganathan, the SIT also recovered documents about the company from his apartment. During their raid at the factory, drug samples and production records were collected. Most of the job was done by the SIT. We merely assisted them," a source in Greater Chennai Police told *DH*. After the arrest, the SIT took Ranganathan to his factory.

▸ Syrup, Page 3D

TCS to build 1GW capacity data centre in India

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With an aim to become the world's largest AI-led technology services firm, Tata Consultancy Services has announced a new business entity to build a 1GW capacity AI data centre in India.

Though the company did not share investment details, K Krithivasan, chief executive officer and managing director, TCS, said in an analyst call that from a CapEx perspective, they have set a target of 1 GW, but they will do it in phases.

"We expect to achieve one gigawatt over a period of five to seven years," he explained.

Details on Page 12

FIRE TRAGEDY

7-yr-old boy dies in school mishap

A seven-year-old boy, identified as Pushpak, died of burn injuries from a fire that broke out at the Har Mandir Residential School, located around 10 km from Madikeri, in the wee hours of Thursday.
P 4

ABUSE CASE

Pocso suspect jumps from court, dies

A 35-year-old man arrested in a Pocso case died after jumping from the fifth floor a Bengaluru court building on Thursday, police said. The deceased, Gautam M, had been arrested by the Adugodi police on April 21.
P 2

MYSURU HORROR

9-yr-old girl raped, murdered

A 9-year old girl was murdered near the Dasara Exhibition Grounds in Mysuru in the early hours of Thursday. It is suspected the victim was raped. A suspect has been arrested from Kollegal.
P 4

Congress on edge: Leadership change or Cabinet rejig?

CM floating reshuffle plan; DKS eyeing top job

D K Shivakumar & Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS

The power struggle within the ruling Congress may be unravelling with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pushing for a reshuffle in his Cabinet much to his deputy D K Shivakumar's chagrin.

The buzz in Siddaramaiah's circle is that new faces will be brought into the Cabinet towards the end of November, when the government would have completed two and a half years in office and the Bihar election done.

Such a midterm Cabinet reshuffle could mean bad news for Shivakumar, who is waiting in the wings to lay claim to the chief minister's chair.

By floating the idea of a Cabinet reshuffle, Siddaramaiah is looking to convey the message that there will not be any change in the leadership in the state.

He may even dangle this to tempt MLAs sulking due to lack of funds, beckon ministerial aspirants and keep incumbent Cabinet members close to him.

Reacting to Siddaramaiah's plan to reshuffle the Cabinet, Shivakumar said he had no idea.

▸ Cabinet, Page 3D

CM to hold banquet for ministers

CM Siddaramaiah will hold a banquet for his Cabinet colleagues on October 13 where he wants to discuss what the Congress government can do to fight off corruption allegations, which caused the undoing of the previous BJP regime.
Details on Page 3D

Cabinet nod for 1 menstrual leave per month for women

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved a menstrual leave policy which will allow women employees in government and private establishments in the state to avail one-day paid menstrual leave every month.

Introduced by the Labour Department, the policy applies to factories, mines, plantations, government offices and MNCs, including IT companies.

Briefing reporters, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said: "The government has decided to implement the Menstrual Leave Policy 2025, which provides one paid leave a month for women working in government offices, garment industries, MNCs, IT, private industries and all sectors."

▸ Menstrual leaves, P3D

'Anna Bhagya' to be modified

The Cabinet has decided to modify the Anna Bhagya scheme by providing 5 kg rice and an Indira kit instead of the 10 kg rice currently being given to BPL cardholders.
Details on Page 3D

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Teen stripped, thrashed for refusing ganja cigarette; 6 friends arrested

Suo-motu action after police station social media cell flags video

BENGALURU, DHNS

An underage college student was locked up, forced to smoke a ganja cigarette, and then beaten, stripped and filmed when he refused.

The police said six of his friends, who carried out the assault, have been tracked down and arrested.

The incident occurred about six months ago, but came to light only after a video surfaced on social media.

The social media monitoring unit of the Govindarajanagar police station flagged the video, which showed the juvenile being brutally assaulted and harassed by his peers.

Following this, the Station House Officer (SHO) registered a suo motu case and launched an investigation.

The victim was traced on October 5.

During inquiry, he told the police that the incident took place about five to six months ago when a group of boys locked him in a room, forced him to smoke a cigarette containing a banned substance, and assaulted him when he refused.

The entire act was recorded on video.

The police identified the location of the assault — a room on the terrace of one of the suspect's houses.

Govt home in Madiwala

The six juveniles involved were later apprehended and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board, which sent them to the Government Observation Home in Madiwala for care and protection.

A note of caution

The police have urged parents to monitor their children's activities and report any suspicious behaviour to the local authorities.

"Timely information can help ensure appropriate treatment for addicted individuals, prevent their involvement in criminal activities, and assist police in identifying and taking strict legal action against drug peddlers," the police said in a statement.

Dismiss HoD for sex abuse: Students

Stage protest on college campus; police plan to detain professor

BENGALURU, DHNS

Students sit in protest at the Jain (Deemed To Be University) campus on Thursday.

Students of a well-known private university in southern Bengaluru staged a protest on Thursday, demanding the dismissal of a HoD accused of sexually harassing a teenage student.

Tension prevailed at Jain (Deemed To Be University) in Jayanagar 9th Block after students alleged that they were locked inside the auditorium and that the management had called the police to control the situation.

A senior police officer said that around 9.30 am, students gathered in the central area of the campus, leading to the cancellation of classes.

"Students tried to spill onto the road, but we prevented them. The management later called them into the auditorium to talk to them. The students are demanding the immediate termination of the professor and have given us a representation," the officer said, denying that the students were locked inside the conference hall.

The police said the professor, Sanjeev Kumar Mandal, 45, did not appear for questioning despite being issued a notice. They now plan to detain him for further action.

University's response

A varsity official said no formal complaint had been filed with the institution by the student.

"We got to know about the issue only after the police sought details. We have now taken up a complaint suo motu and initiated an inquiry. The person has been placed under suspension," the official said.

On October 5, the Tilaknagar police registered an FIR against Mandal for allegedly sexually harassing a 19-year-old student at his residence in Jayanagar 9th Block on September 25.

The complaint stated that Mandal had invited the student for lunch. Upon reaching his home, she realised that none of his family members was present.

While she was seated, Mandal sat beside her, discussed her academic record and low attendance. He allegedly offered to increase her marks and attendance if she complied with his advances.

The complaint further said he behaved inappropriately and even put his hand inside her clothing.

The student resisted and managed to leave the premises after receiving a timely phone call from a friend, which she used as an excuse for an urgent departure.

Man booked for child sexual assault jumps to death from city court building

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 35-year-old man arrested in a child sexual abuse case died after jumping from the fifth floor of the Bengaluru City Civil Court building on Thursday, the police said.

The deceased, Gautam M, had been arrested by the Adugodi police on April 21 and was lodged in the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

Around noon, Gautam and three other undertrial prisoners were brought to the court complex for hearings in separate cases. They were escorted by City Armed Reserve (CAR) personnel.

As he was being produced before Fast Track Court 3, Gautam reportedly broke free from his handcuffs and leapt from the fifth floor. He was rushed to Victoria Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries, the police said.

Originally from Rajasthan, Gautam ran an electrical shop in Chickpet and lived with his wife at A Narayanapura in KR Puram. His family members, who were present in court, were left in shock.

A senior police officer said that Gautam had been booked under Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act for aggravated penetrative sexual assault on a relative. The offence came to light after the minor girl became pregnant.

The police suspect Gautam may have taken the extreme step after seeing his family in court and being unable to bear the humiliation.

Forensic experts examined the scene, and the Halasuru Gate police have taken up further investigation.

The accused jumped from the fifth floor of the City Civil Court.
DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH SHETTAR

Couple found dead as fire guts Yelahanka lodge room

BENGALURU, DHNS: An unmarried couple was found dead after a fire broke out in their lodge room in Yelahanka New Town on Thursday, with the police suspecting it to be a case of suicide.

The deceased have been identified as Kaveri (24) from Hungund in Bagalkot district and Ramesh Bandivaddar (25) from Gajendragad in Gadag district. The two had checked into the lodge on Thursday afternoon.

Around 5 pm, a fire broke out in their room and quickly spread. Kaveri reportedly called room service to report the blaze. The staff alerted the fire force and tried to break open the door, which was locked from inside.

When they entered, Ramesh was found charred to death, while Kaveri lay unconscious in the washroom. She was rushed to hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. The police said she likely died of asphyxiation.

The Yelahanka New Town police have registered a case of suspicious death and are awaiting the post-mortem report to determine the exact cause.

A police officer said the lodge had six rooms, and though the fire spread to the nearby rooms, no one else was injured. The Scene of Crime (SOCO) and forensic teams are investigating the cause of the blaze.

Preliminary inquiries suggest that the two were in a relationship, but faced opposition from their families.

Woman tried to escape

The police suspect Ramesh may have poured petrol and set the room ablaze, while Kaveri ran into the washroom in a desperate attempt to escape the flames, but passed out.

RAINY DAY STROLL

Caught in the rain, a woman shields her child with an umbrella while walking through a street in Bengaluru on Thursday. AFP

Deepavali special train to Chennai

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will run special trains between KSR Bengaluru and Chennai Central for the Deepavali festival.

Train number 06255 will leave KSR Bengaluru at 8.05 am on October 18, 21 and 25, and reach Chennai Central at 2.45 pm. Train 06256 will leave Chennai Central at 4.30 pm on October 18, 21 and 25, and arrive at KSR Bengaluru at 10.45 pm.

Both trains will stop at Yeshwantpur, KR Puram, Bangarapet, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Arakkonam, Tiruvallur and Perambur.

Tea stall owner locks up census enumerator for 3 hours in Hebbal

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 32-year-old man from Hebbal was arrested for allegedly confining a school teacher in his house compound for over three hours during the ongoing socio-educational survey, commonly known as the caste census.

On Wednesday, Susheelamma, a teacher at a government primary school, was in Bhadrappa Layout near Hebbal carrying out survey duties. She visited the house of BR Sandeep, a tea stall owner, and met his mother, who was at home.

While taking her details, Susheelamma asked for the woman's Aadhaar and other documents and requested the OTP.

As she was collecting the information, Sandeep returned home and began arguing with her for seeking the OTP from his mother. Despite showing her identity card, he did not believe Susheelamma. Sandeep allegedly snatched her ID card and locked the compound gate, trapping her inside.

Despite her repeated pleas, he refused to let her out. After three hours, Susheelamma managed to contact her superiors, who rushed to the spot and urged Sandeep to release her.

He allegedly threatened to lock them up as well if they did not leave.

The officials then alerted the police, who arrived soon after and freed the teacher.

Following her complaint, the police booked Sandeep under sections 132 (using criminal force to deter a public servant from duty), 127(2) (wrongful confinement) and 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Did not want to give OTP

A police officer close to the investigation said Sandeep told them he was angry with the teacher for obtaining the OTP from his mother and did not wish to share family details for the survey.

Jewellery store employee, aide held for Rs 45 lakh gold theft

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Jalahalli police have arrested a jewellery shop assistant and his accomplice for allegedly stealing gold ornaments worth Rs 45 lakh from the shop's locker in Muthyalanagar, North Bengaluru.

The incident came to light on September 26 when the jewellery shop owner, a resident of Muthyalanagar, filed a complaint at the Jalahalli police station.

The owner stated that he and his son had briefly left the shop for lunch that afternoon. Upon returning, they discovered that 540 grams of gold jewellery were missing from the shop's locker. Suspicion fell on Mahaveer Singh, 23, who had been working at the shop for over three years. The police registered a case of theft and launched an investigation.

Based on tip-offs from informants, a team tracked down and detained Singh near the KSR Bengaluru railway station on September 29. His accomplice, Kuldeep Singh, 24, was also taken into custody.

The police said the duo confessed to planning and executing the theft together.

Officers recovered 429.02 grams of gold ornaments from them. A city court has remanded them to judicial custody.

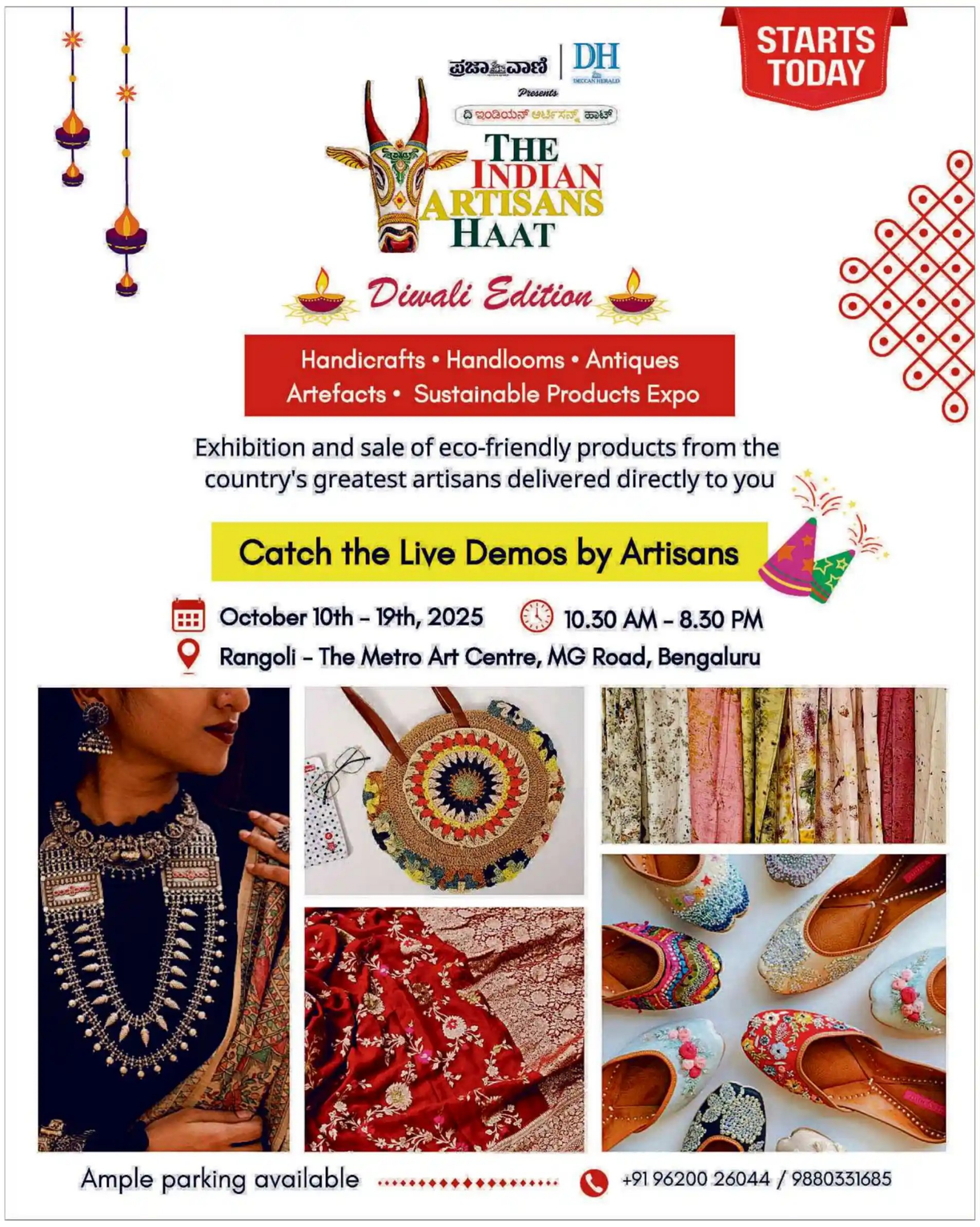
Seshadripuram First Grade College, Yelahanka, hosted 'Fragrance of Harmony', an international conference commemorating Swamy Vivekananda's Chicago Address, on October 6. Renowned scientist Dr Anil Sahasrabudhe, Seshadripuram Educational Trust's honorary secretary Wooday P Krishna and others were present on the occasion.

Police register 37 cases in social media monitoring drive

BENGALURU, DHNS: As part of their Social Media Monitoring Cells (SMMCs) initiative, the Bengaluru police have registered 37 cases so far this year, arrested 18 individuals, and taken down 41 social media accounts along with 19 objectionable posts.

The monitoring focuses on content that spreads communal hatred, fake news, defamatory remarks, or provocative messages that could threaten public peace. Several such posts were flagged, and cases were subsequently registered. The police have warned of strict legal action against those found violating the law.

The public has been urged not to endorse, share, or circulate content that may disturb social harmony. Authorities also advised citizens to verify the authenticity of information before posting or forwarding it online.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Deepavali special trains to Jog Falls, Belagavi

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways will run the following special trains from Bengaluru to Talaguppa (Jog Falls) and Belagavi to clear the extra rush of passengers during Deepavali:

Train number 06587 will depart from Yeshwantpur at 10.30 pm on October 17 and 24, and reach Talguppa at 4.15 am the following day.

Train number 06588 will leave Talguppa at 10 am on October 18 and 25, and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 5.15 pm the same day. The train will stop at Tumakuru, Tiptur, Arsikere, Birur, Tarikere, Bhadravati, Shivamogga Town, Anandapuram and Sagara Jambagaru in both directions.

Train number 06503 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 5.30 pm on October 17 and reach Belagavi at 5.30 am the next day.

Train number 06504 will leave Belagavi at 5.30 pm on October 22 and reach SMVT Bengaluru at 5 am the following day.

The train will have stoppages at Chikkabanavara, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Birur, Davangere, Harihar, Haveri, Hubballi, Dharwad, Alnavar and Londa.

Software engineer dies in two-wheeler accident

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 27-year-old software engineer died after falling off a two-wheeler and hitting the edge of a footpath in the early hours of Wednesday near Whitefield.

The victim, identified as Koushal Kishore from Uttar Pradesh, was a resident of Mahadevapura and worked in the city's tech sector.

According to police reports, Kishore and a colleague had gone out for tea around 3.40 am when the accident occurred. He sustained severe head injuries after the fall and was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on Thursday.

His colleague, who was riding with him, escaped with minor injuries.

The police stated that Kishore was not wearing a helmet at the time of the incident, which contributed to the fatal injuries.

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Unions, lawyers flag unethical layoffs

Multiple global tech companies with offices in Bengaluru have been downsizing amid the push for AI

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Trade unions and labour lawyers say many tech companies with offices in Bengaluru are downsizing without following due process, and in some cases, forcing employees to resign. Yet, only a minuscule number of affected workers fight back.

They attribute this to a lack of awareness of labour rights, fear of jeopardising future employment, and the need to quickly find a new source of income rather than get entangled in long legal battles. The absence of a strong union culture is another reason for weak employee resistance.

The Industrial Disputes (ID) Act, 1947, lays down certain procedures for layoffs (temporary cessation) and retrenchment (permanent dismissal). According to advocate Mahima Meenaxi, these include giving appropriate notice and compensation. "In some cases, before retrenchment or layoff, companies are mandated to get prior permission from the government," she adds. The Act also has a 'last in, first out' principle — where the newest hires are let go first — but Mahima says companies often pick employees "randomly" or even "target" women of fertile age. If an employee has worked for more than a year, they are entitled to compensation as specified under the Act, worth 50% of their basic wages plus dearness allowance, she says.

In July, TCS, which has offices in Bengaluru, announced its plans to downsize its global workforce by nearly 12,000 positions. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

According to Avani Chokshi, advocate and convening body member of the IT and ITeS Democratic Employees Association (IIDEA), in cases of dispute, companies often argue that IT staff don't qualify as 'workmen' as per the ID Act. The Act defines a workman as anyone engaged in skilled, unskilled, technical, manual, clerical, or operational work; a category that includes many IT professionals. However, those in managerial, administrative, or supervisory roles, earning over Rs 10,000 a month, are excluded. "In many cases, someone titled 'manager' is actually doing technical work," Avani says, pointing to how companies exploit this grey area.

Forced resignations

Lawyers and unions express concern over rampant forced resignations. Since mid-September, Mahima has been approached by around 15 IT workers who were asked to resign. If they refuse, such workers are threatened with termination, denied experience letters, or told it will affect their employment record. Sometimes, their salaries are suspended and their access to internal employee portals are blocked, they say.

Rubin Mathias, convening body member of IIDEA, says the group has been approached by 20 employees from one MNC. They plan to pursue conciliation or legal action after being asked to resign. Suhas Adiga, general secretary, Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU), adds that they now receive daily complaints about layoffs and forced resignations.

Severance packages in such cases are often "arbitrary", Avani says. "Those who appear scared and comply quietly get less; those who resist tend to get more," she says.

Mahima advises employees not to give in to pressure. She recommends buying time and gathering evidence like employment records, offer letters, payslips, appraisals, attendance or leave encashment, and any emails or calls showing threats to resign. "These documents can be crucial if you seek legal remedy," Mahima says.

EX-EMPLOYEES SPEAK

A business operations and product manager with over 13 years of experience was given two hours to resign, with a severance package of about 8 months. "I was terrified of losing both my job and severance, so I signed. It's been 13 months, and I am still unemployed," says the 37-year-old. Another mid-level professional was told her services were being terminated instantly while she was working from home in April. She, too, remains jobless.

TCS NOTICE

In late July, the labour department issued a notice to TCS, which has multiple offices in Bengaluru, seeking an explanation for its plan to layoff nearly 12,000 employees.

G Manjunath, Additional Labour Commissioner, says, "Two rounds of talks have taken place. TCS clarified that lay offs haven't occurred in Bengaluru yet and that they will inform the department if they plan to."

NEED HELP?

Contact unions like KITU (kituhq.org) and IIDEA (iideaofficial.org).

POPCORN

Reverse colony

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is in India, doing many pictorially interesting things out here. In Mumbai, he lit lamps in advance for Diwali, dined at a heritage restaurant, visited Yash Raj Films Studios, and met our prime minister. While at it, he also sold us some missiles, and invited our film folks to shoot their blockbusters in the UK. Guess who received him at the YRF Studios? Rani Mukherjee. And to think there was a time when our teachers made us memorise that rhyme about the pussy cat who went to London to see the queen. Look who's coming down now to see our Rani.

EVENTS

Graduation exhibition
Design Craft is hosting SKV's annual graduation exhibition, Kai Magga Kale Sangama, on October 11 and 12, 10 am to 7 pm, at Sabha BLR, Kamaraj Road. For details, check @somaiya_kala_vidya on Instagram.

Musical confluence
Samyoga – Khayal Se Kriti Tak, an evening of Hindustani and Karnatik music, will be presented by Manasi Prasad and Radhika Joshi, on October 12, 11.30 am, at Bangalore International Centre. Domlur. RSVP at bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Plays
Ninasam Tirugata is presenting 'Hrudayada Teerpu', based on a story by Banu Mushtaq and directed by M Ganesh, and a Malayalam play 'Avatharanam Branthalayam', adapted to Kannada by Na Damodaran Shetty and directed by Sankar Venkateswaran. They will be staged on October 14 and 15 respectively at 7.30 pm at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets online.

CITY MIX

Tribute to Dikshitar on Saturday

Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha will host a music and art programme to mark the 250th birth anniversary of Muthuswami Dikshitar, one of the 'Trinity of Karnatik Music'.

Titled 'Sri Chakra', the event will be held on October 11 at 5.30 pm. Artist Rekha Krishnan will exhibit artworks that reflect her spiritual journey and interpretations of the Sri Chakra, a sacred geometric symbol. Vocalist and Bharatanatyam dancer Sumitra Nitin, along with her students, will present 'Navavaranams' with accompanying explanations. 'Navavaranams' is a series of kritis composed by Dikshitar in praise of goddess Kamalamba.

Entry is free for Sabha members. Non-members can collect passes from the Sabha office 2 pm onwards until October 11.

A capella show

The Shadja Academy of Performing Arts, Arekere, is presenting an a-cappella show at 10 am on October 12, with a talented ensemble of singers recreating the magic of instrumental music – without using a single instrument. The venue is H N Auditorium, National College, Basavanagudi. On October 25, young vocalists showcase their talent at 6 pm, at Shukra auditorium, Malleswaram. The academy is founded and helmed by Gurudutt R, guitarist and singer proficient in multiple genres.

Gurudutt is a guitarist, singer, and founder of The Shadja Academy of Performing Arts.

Drive to dispose of sacred relics

ICHange Indiranagar, in association with Shri Kamakshi Aarsha Samskriti Trust, will hold a collection drive for sacred relics at Sundaranjaneya Bhajana Mandira, Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple, 100 ft Road, on October 12 from 10 am onwards. The collected items will be ritually disposed of during a pooja at 4 pm. Damaged idols, torn religious pictures, and old religious calendars can be brought in for disposal.

For details, visit @icindngr on X.

Child marriages in B'luru fewer, but still a concern

Awareness drives and child helplines have done their bit, but that's not enough, say activists

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Last week, authorities busted the wedding of a minor in Anepalya. The incident has highlighted the fact that the illegal practice of child marriage continues unchecked in Bengaluru.

Seemant Kumar Singh, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner who took over four months ago, states that such cases are rare in the city. However, Brinda Adige, women's rights activist and director of Global Concerns India, shares that her team deals with child marriage cases regularly. "Not all of them are reported or stopped. They are happening, but come to our attention only when the girl has a problem, and it's usually after the wedding has happened," she tells *Metrolife*.

Her team receives at least one call per month seeking help. "Often, the families decide to get the girl and boy married because the girl gets pregnant. After the girl returns to her parents' house for delivery, the boy's family refuses to take her back. That is when the girl's family approaches us for help," Brinda shares.

Though numbers have come down due to awareness drives in schools, colleges, and communities where it is rampant, cases continue to come to their attention, says a source from the District Child Protection Officer. "Through the 1098 child helpline, we have been able to stop hundreds of cases. I would say about 80% of the cases are stopped," he shares.

Some child rights organisations receive one call per month seeking their help to rescue children forced into marriage.

Sparsha Trust, a city-based child rights organisation, ran a helpline until 2024. Through the helpline, they were fielding at least 100-120 calls a year from people looking for help. Since they shut the helpline, they do not receive direct requests for help, but assist the Directorate of Child Protection (DCP) in rescuing children pushed into child marriage by offering shelter.

"Currently, our hostel in Devanahalli is occupied by about 15 girls who were rescued from child marriage," says R Gopinath, managing trustee. He shares that in Bengaluru, the occurrence of child marriage is high in migrant labourer communities and rag pickers' colonies.

Mumtaz, who worked with the DCPO in Bengaluru during the pandemic, shares that the cases almost doubled in those years. Families were getting their children married off to relatives to avoid inter-caste and inter-religious unions.

Brinda recalls a case where a 15-year-old girl was married off to her uncle aged 21, after the sudden death of both her parents. "These were middle-class, educated people who conducted a formal wedding with all the ceremonies and fanfare. None of the people invited to the wedding objected. Only one aunt was against it and called us for help. But the wedding was completed before we reached the venue, because the aunt was given wrong information about the dates of the wedding," she shares.

She notes that many cases go unreported, because "we only know such a wedding has happened if they run into a problem". Out of 10 weddings, her team manages to stop four. "Which is very less," she says.

Rotary 'Kala for Vidya' features 150-plus artists

The Rotary Club of Bangalore (RCB) will inaugurate its annual fundraising art exhibition, 'Kala for Vidya 2025', at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on October 10. The show will be open to the public on October 11 and 12, from 11 am to 8 pm.

The exhibition will feature over 150 artists who submitted around 440 artworks. About 180 will be showcased at the venue, but all submissions can be viewed and purchased online.

"This year's show is bigger and more inclusive — it brings together emerging and established artists. Through the show, we aim to make art more affordable and accessible, while raising funds for the Rotary Bangalore Vidyalaya in Nagdevanahalli, which supports the education of around 450 underserved children," explains Sandeep Ohri, Director – International Service, RCB.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by veteran Rotarians Sitalakshmi Chinnappa, Meera Shankar, Shanti Baliga, and Srichand Rajpal, who together represent nearly 200 years of community service.

The show will continue online at rcb1934.in/kalaforvidya until December 31.

Need counselling? Some free services

These organisations have been running for over a decade. Today is World Mental Health Day

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Despite numerous counselling centres and helplines in Bengaluru, citizens say affordable psychological support remains hard to access. *Metrolife* spoke to city-based non-profits offering free counselling.

Their clients range from ages 10 to 85 and seek help for issues such as academic or job stress, relationship problems, family illness, financial worries, conflicts over responsibilities, and low self-esteem.

A session at Sneha Society for Counselling, Malleswaram.

Prasanna Counselling

Shankarapuram's Prasanna Counselling Centre has been offering free psychological counselling since 1980. "For online sessions, we charge a one-time registration fee of Rs 100," says psychologist Sushma Kaushik.

The centre has 22 volunteer counsellors and also hosts weekly consultations with psychiatrists from NIMHANS, and Victoria Hospital. These sessions are free, though clients have to pay for medication if prescribed.

Monday-Saturday (10 am-8 pm); call 96069 51405.

Vishwas Society

Jayanagar's Vishwas Society for Mental Health, founded in 1991, has counselled over 18,000 people through in-person sessions. Cofounder Ramesh Venkateswaran says, "We prioritise personal interaction over telecounselling as it is more effective."

Entirely volunteer-run, the centre has about 20 counsellors. Most clients are aged 35-45 and seek help for marital, family, or parenting stress.

Monday-Wednesday (5.30-7.30 pm) and Saturday (10.30 am-12.30 pm); call 63643 20707.

Sneha Society

For over 20 years, Malleswaram's Sneha Society for Counselling has been offering in-person and telecounselling services from the campus of Hymamshu Jyothi Kala Peetha Composite PU College. Its 25 trained volunteers handle around 400 cases a year.

Director Lakshmi Rajan says, "Anxiety related to studies, work, or relationships tops the list of concerns we get, followed by marital distress."

Monday and Wednesday-Saturday (5-7 pm, including public holidays); call 98455 60209.

Samadhana

For 18 years, Samadhana, founded by Dr C R Chandrashekar, has supported over 36,000 people. "Our 60 counsellors handle in-person and online sessions. We are approached by 15-30-year-olds facing academic or career stress, and seniors coping with loneliness or health anxiety," he says.

Monday-Saturday (10.30 am-1.30 pm and 5.30-8 pm); call 080 264 8292.

Banjara Academy

For nearly 40 years, Banjara Academy, a training institute in R T Nagar, has provided free counselling. "We address everything from academic stress to relationship issues," says founder Ali Khwaja. The team offers counselling in person, over phone, and by email.

Monday-Saturday (9.30 am-5.30 pm); call 88614 21666.

Show on migration of plants across centuries

TEAM METROLIFE

A transdisciplinary event on the migration of plants opens in Bengaluru today. Titled 'Travelling Plants', it features photographs, artworks, short films, installations, workshops, and a panel discussion.

The show arrives in Bengaluru after touring cities like Chennai, Hyderabad, and Delhi.

Suresh Jayaram takes forward the Bengaluru edition from its previous curator Lina Vincent. According to Jayaram, the exhibition offers a glimpse into plants and trees that have journeyed across continents and centuries to become part of daily life in India.

Chilli, for instance, was brought from South America by the Portuguese through their trading colony in Goa. Coffee came to Karnataka when Sufi mystic Baba Budan carried seven beans from Yemen after a pilgrimage. Bengaluru's Lalbagh Botanical Garden and its avenue trees, Jayaram notes, exemplify how species from around the world have acclimatised and found a home here.

The exhibition also examines invasive species. He cites the example of parthenium, or Congress grass. It arrived in India with wheat imports from the US as part of food aid. Jayaram hopes the show will encourage viewers to engage more consciously with nature in an urban context and appreciate the diversity shaped by migration.

Fifteen art projects will be showcased.

The events will be held across two venues, 1 Shanthi Road Studio Gallery, Shantinagar, and Alliance Française, Vasanthnagar, with a guided tree walk at Cubbon Park.

October 10 to 19. Look up the schedule on @1.shanthiroad on Instagram.

Orchid show on October 11, 12

The Orchid Society of Karnataka (TOSKAR) and Indo-American Hybrid Seeds (India) Pvt Ltd are hosting the 'Orchid Show 2025' at St Joseph University, Langford Road, on October 11 and 12, from 10 am to 6 pm.

The ninth edition of the annual event will feature a vibrant display of indigenous, exotic, and hybrid orchids, apart from eight stalls selling accessories, books, artworks, and philatelic works on orchids. Hands-on training sessions and live demonstrations on orchid care will be held across both days. "This year's theme focuses on 'Conservation of orchids in their natural habitat'," says K S Shashidhar, president of TOSKAR. "The highlight will be the rare lady slipper orchids (Paphiopedilum). Several members have been growing hybrids, and we'll be showcasing around 300 hybrids at the event," he adds.

The show will feature nearly 150 species from 10 genera, including Phragmipedium, Bulbophyllum, Grammatophyllum, Vanda, Cattleya, Ludisia, and Dockrilla. Hybrid varieties such as Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, Catasetum, Tolumnia, and Cymbidium will also be on display.

Over 60 members of TOSKAR will display their orchids, and the team is expecting around 4,000 visitors.

For details, call 94483 51170.

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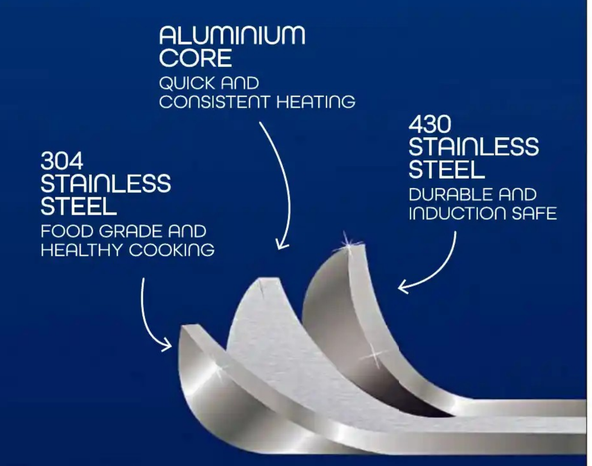

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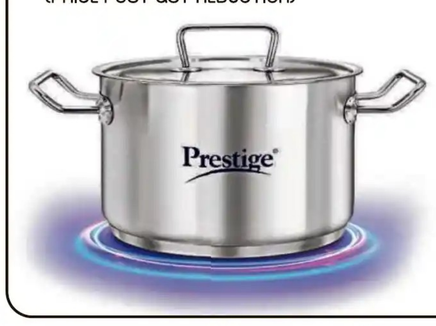

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Outer Ring Road: Hennur Coco: Ph: 7204250679; **Tumkur Rd. 8th Mile T.Dasarahalli:** Ph: 9972541116; **Koramangala:** Ph: 9663515616, **Tumkur**: Ph: 9164853121; **Bull Temple Rd:** Ph: 26609012; **Malleswaram:** Ph: 9448282470; **Rt Nagar Main Rd:** Ph: 41698761; **Ganganagar Cbi Rd:** Ph: 43705914; **Wheeler Rd:** Ph: 25803080; **Kattriguppe Circle:** Ph: 40900685; **Vijayanagar:** Ph: 9739004750; **Hsr Bda Complex:** Ph: 25726991; **Marathahalli:** Ph: 42197088; **Sanjaynagar,** Ph: 41258300; **Banaswadi Ring Rd:** Ph: 41634115; **Jayanagar:** Ph: 9845066549; **J.P.Nagar:** Ph: 41122235; **Rajarajeshwaringr:** Ph: 28603540, 9008418800; **Kengeri Stl Town,** Ph: 28485296; **Rajajinagar:** Ph: 41731224; **B.T.M.Layout:** Ph: 40939168; **Sarjapura Rd:** Ph: 42038646; **Konankunte Cross:** Ph: 9845057728; **Nagharabhavi Bda Cmplx**: Ph: 9739004750; **Begur:** Ph: 8970366139; **Vidyaranayapura:** Ph: 9845518824; **Wilson Garden:** Ph:9480010720; **Brookefield:** Ph: 28541555; **Ramamurthynagar:** Ph: 08042049545; **Kr Puram:** Ph: 8861494277;**Cambridge Layout,** Ph: 42074468; **Kaggadaspura:** Ph: 7306666610; **Kammanahalli:** Ph:41606044; **Whitefield:** Ph: 40907273;**Chandapura:** Ph: 9036190725; **Dommasandra:** Ph: 9611423555; **Hesarghatta Road:** Ph: 28370400; **Uttarahalli:** Ph: 9986879095; **Anjananagr Magadi Rd:** Ph: 23281206; **Kadugodi:** Ph: 8123042234; **Hosur Rd Huskur Gate:** Ph: 9606406009; **Yelahanka Newtown:** Ph: 8668034376; **Jayamahal Ext,** Ph: 41616484; **Mahalakshmi Lyt:** Ph: 23572233; **Jpnagar 7th Phase, Puttenahalli:** Ph: 41465855; **Kumaraswamy Lyt:** Ph: 8618517716; **Chandra Lyt:** Ph: 9739004750; **Channasandra:** Ph: 9986369569; **Sheshadripuram:** Ph: 8711090976; **Kasturinagar:** Ph: 08049923166; **Attibele:** Ph: 9341221525; **Jigani:** Ph: 8762069852; **Sarjapura Town:** Ph: 9036373175; **Hosa Rd Junction:** Ph: 9845597099; **Mathikere**: Ph: 6366636592; **Basaveshwaranagar:** Ph: 9739591008; **Thalagatapura:** Ph: 9964116888; **Hegganahalli:** Ph: 28360289; **Gottigere:** Ph: 8431241099; **Ullal:** Ph: 9686646565; **Jayanagar 4th Block East Extension:** Ph: 9945446335; **Nelamangala:** Ph: 9632356627; **Kolar:** Ph: 9738882584; **Channapatna:** Ph: 9686661294; **Madhugiri**: Ph: 9611552805; **Gauribidanur:** Ph: 8317399465; **Gubbi: Ph:** 9035195120/8095459040; **Banshankari Stage 2, Bda Complex:** Ph: 49890679, 9740677740; **Vijayabank Colony, Bilekahalli:** Ph: 8970366139; **Whitefield:** Ph: 08040907273; **Malur:** Ph: 9845028859; **Kumbalagodu:** Ph: 9845014860; **Devanahalli:** Ph: 9845737576; **Thanisandra:** Ph: 9686340159; **Hulimavu:** Ph: 8904654433; **Singanayakanahalli:** Ph: 9151717779; **Anekal:** Ph: 8660070202; **Tiptur**, Ph: 9164688773; **Bhyadarahalli:** Ph: 9845982089; **Hennur Bande:** Ph: 9980097982; **Tc Palya Road:** Ph: 9148775224; **Chikkajaala:** Ph: 9036202892; **Mutthanallur:** Ph: 8970736606; **Madnayakhalli**: Ph: 9886230009; **Hoskote**: Ph: 9845028859; **Sira:** Ph: 8310660400. **For Franchisee Enquiry Contact: Ayush Kumar Sahu, Ph: 9993010283.**

Also Available At: Jayanagar: Sarathy, Ph: 41210047; Vishaals, Ph: 08022447285; Royal Mart, Ph: 8790311104; Anjana Superstores, Ph: 41301836; Kitchenmart, Ph: 26652885; Aravinda, Ph: 41301989;**Bankcolony**:Vardhaman Ind, Ph: 22428300;**Banashankari:**Varada Glass & Crky, Ph: 9980949316; Patel Agn, Ph: 26714285;Patel Ktchen Apl, Ph: 9079061706; Chamundi Ind, Ph: 26712633;**Bilekhalli:**Sree Pooja Ha, Ph: 9036919084; **Bommanahalli:**Sri Durga Ha, Ph: 9900674018;**Chamarjpet:**Vadirajstores, Ph: 41517646;**Devarachikkanahalli:**Sapna Ha, Ph: 9738732036;**Electronic City:**Dream Mart Hm, Ph: 9148934858;**Hosa Rd:**Maharaja Kw-9036400829;**Hosakota:**Dream Mart Hm-9964744480;**Isro Layout;**Bhumi Kitchen, Ph: 9916830850; **Jp Nagar**: Surya Kitchen World, Ph: 9449762988;**Kanakapura Rd**: Royal Mart, Ph: 28425777;**Padmanabnagar:**Royalmart, Ph: 9886088993;**Uthrahalli:**Royalmart, Ph: 26394114;Rme Super Market, Ph: 9964228208;**Mysore Road:**The Karnataka Metal Industry, Ph: 9449342727;**Ayyappanagar:**Top Mart Sm, Ph: 7204448111; **Babusapalya**:Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8105754544;**Basaveshwarnagar:**Bigday Hm, Ph: 9972517344; Mahaveer Ha, Ph: 9844173501; Modern Colln, Ph: 23583440;Aadhinath Kitchen Gal, Ph: 41220555;**Gayathri Ngr:**J.K.Steel, Ph: 23320853;**Giri Nagar**:Vidya Ent, Ph: 9449988650;Matahji Ha, Ph: 7019385120; **Bagalgunte:**Royal Mart, Ph: 9538000072;**Chandra Layout:**Rajguru Kw, Ph: 9513034351; Pavan Kw, Ph: 8618028319;**Ganganagar:**Salemindustries, Ph: 41284470;Patel Ind, Ph: 8050899296;**Hesargatta Main Rd:**Royal Mart, Ph: 28398200;**Horamavu:**Mamtha Ha, Ph: 8880050050;**Hrbr Layout:**Bhavani Ha, Ph: 9845916164;**Harlurur**: Vinayaka Ha, Ph: 7760531454:**Katriguppe:**Mk Metal Mart, Ph: 9035779199;**Kr Puram:**Srm Elect, Ph: 9845445748; Pooja Ele, Ph: 9738850503; **Boodhigere Rd**:New Royal Fresh, Ph: 9538038885; **Kamanhalli:**Ramdev Steel, Ph: 7259575732 ;Hm Traders, Ph: 9964797616;**Kasavanahalli:**Mathaji Ha, Ph: 8880796036;**Kunadanahalli:** New Prakash Ha, Ph: 7090444111; **Kengeri**;Falcon Hm, Ph: 7829999066;**Koramangala:**Sowbhagya Traders, Ph: 7337733887;**Kmr Swy Layout**:Patel Ha, Ph: 8951979665;**Laggere:**Top Mart, Ph: 9110246047;**Lnpura:**Arihanth Ent, Ph: 7899633338;**Malleshwaram:**Deviprasad Ha, Ph: 23564536;Bright Novelty, Ph: 23343505;**Mathikere:**M.Bhawarlals Inc, Ph: 41724740; Maharaja Agency, Ph: 41278050; **Kadugodi:**Little Wonder, Ph: 9961224224;**Madiwala:**Surya Ha, Ph: 9449635332;**Malleshpalya:**Bajrang Ha, Ph: 9449526463;New Bheru Ha, Ph: 9448680738;Ramdev Ha, Ph: 9035175860;Sri Bhagawathi Ha, Ph: 9590575427; Maa Ambe Ha, Ph: 8884198322; **Magadiroad:**Royal Mart, Ph: 23584498;**Annaporneshwari Nagar:**Deepak Ha, Ph: 9148912736;**M S Palya:**Royal Mart, Ph: 8147014079;**B Narayanpura**: Ph: Mart; Ph: 7676726487;**Rajajinagar:** R S Mart, Ph: 6363602929; Mahalakshmi Metal House, Ph: 23355994; Rathna Sales, Ph: 23375566; Dhanalakshmi Kitchen World, Ph: 41285801;Jayalakshmi Kw, Ph: 9844755146; Pooja Stl Cent, Ph: 23327014; **Rr Nagar:**Milan Ha, Ph: 28605619;Pavan Kg, Ph: 9739207043;**Tavarakere:**Mytri Mart Sm, Ph: 7996598838;**T C Palya:**Rhk Super Mkt, Ph: 9731668995; Big Day Sm, Ph: 8867604818; Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8105754544;**Tipsandra:**Pawar Ha, Ph: 9980517021;Milan Ha, Ph: 9986196375;Ramdev Ha, Ph: 7406901545;**Ulsoor:**Aishwaryapranam Ha, Ph: 9902788429;Pranam Steel Center, Ph: 9448053781;**Udaynagar:**Mother India-9036189765;**Venkatapura:**Pooja Kg-9900426176;**Vijayanagar:**Vijaylaxmi Kw, Ph: 9845022284; Mahendras, Ph: 23141126;Maruthi Ha, Ph: 8904689155;**Vidyarnapura:**Praksh Kw, Ph: 8050620877,Mahalakshmi Steel House, Ph: 9663375159;All Seasons Hm, Ph: 9946728736;**Whitefield:**Rolla Hm, Ph: 9148003448;Loyalcity, Ph: 7892565797;Royal Mart, Ph: 7079734574;**Yelahanka:**Royalmart, Ph: 41705760;Mutha Electricals, Ph: 22971920;Sai Kitchen World Ph: 9632811797; **Btm Layout**: Patel Agencies, Ph: 9482853401;**Tumkur:**N.R Metal Agency, Ph: 0816-2275003; Kavitha Kitchen Ware; Ph: 9538537166;Surya Metal Store, Ph: 9731351050;Tumkur Trade Centre, Ph: 9901432287; Dharshan Ha, Ph: 9632132567; Sudha Ha, Ph: 9964011253; **Gubbi**:Keerthi Gas Stove, Ph: 9686004169; **Tiptur:** Sri Sai Electronics, Ph: 8861432166;Srirama-Ent, Ph: 9880362018; Kumar And Kumar, Ph: 9141609900;**Turuvekere**:Sri Sai Electronics, Ph: 8861432166; **Pavgada:**Shivanagere Ha, Ph: 9880768236; Meenakshi Appl, Ph: 9880360326; **Sira**:Swamy Ent, Ph: 9741561491; Lakshmi Sreel, Ph: 9060434807; Mallikarjuna Ha, Ph: 8123206930; **Madhugir**i:Akshya Ha, Ph: 9141786066; Vinayaka Store, Ph: 9900219291; **Kunigal:**Karnataka Metal Stores, Ph: 9448550390; New Karnataka Steel Centre, Ph: 08132221548; Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8892197645; **Kgf**·Prakash Ha, Ph: 9845113454;**Bangarpet:** Kumar Stores, Ph: 9845935240; **Gauribidanur**:Sri Raju Ha, Ph: 9448249527; Dhighvijaya Elec, Ph: 7204757456;**Kanakapura**:Sri Kabbalamma Ha, Ph: 9880835508;**Kolar**:Reddy Ele, Ph: 9844472531;Rakesh Ele, Ph: 9880634555;Naveenprakash Ha, Ph: 9844997787;**Malur:**Srm Elec, Ph: 9845445748; Reddy Ele, Ph: 9844435121;**Vijayapura**: Rmcity, Ph: 9845164990;Reddy Ele, Ph: 9900336061;**Devanahalli**:New Sowmya Ele, Ph: 9141335210;**Chintamani:**Great India Ele, Ph: 9742963551;Lavanya Stores, Ph: 9242498294.

Available at: Fai INTERNATIONAL

Mitti Cafe launches third outlet at KIA's Terminal 2

BENGALURU, DHNS: A new Mitti Cafe outlet was inaugurated at the Kempegowda International Airport's Terminal 2 on October 9, marking the third outlet within the airport premises. The other two are located in Terminal 1.

Mitti Cafe is a non-profit organisation founded by Alina Alam, dedicated to promoting economic independence for adults with physical, intellectual, and multiple disabilities.

For her efforts in empowering the differently abled community, Alina was recognised as a *DH Changemaker* in 2024. As of that year, she had facilitated employment for over 4,000 differently abled adults.

"We are incredibly grateful to BIAL and its leadership for believing in our mission when we were still small. Developed in partnership with Bajaj Finserv and Zscaler's CSR programme, the opening of our new outlet at Terminal 2 reaffirms our commitment to creating inclusive spaces where ability is celebrated and opportunities are created," said Alina.

BWSSB's aerator drive cuts water wastage, saves 10 cr litres/day

Accounts for about 5% of city's daily supply, say officials

BENGALURU, DHNS

A small initiative to mandate aerators for taps in commercial spaces and apartment complexes has resulted in significant water savings.

Since last summer, around 15 lakh taps in Bengaluru have been fitted with aerators, saving nearly 10 crore litres of water a day — about 5% of the city's daily supply, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has said.

"Ten crore litres is not a small number. This is just the minimum savings that we have calculated. But depending on the size of the establishment and usage, the savings might be much higher. In the long run, this will translate into saving crores of rupees," said Ramprasat Manohar V, Chairperson, BWSSB.

Aerators reduce water consumption by increasing the pressure of the flow from taps.

He added that preventing water wastage had a profound impact on the environment.

Close to five lakh apartments, 4,000 government offices, and 32,000 houses have installed aerators so far.

During the acute water crisis of summer 2024, the BWSSB introduced several measures to curb wastage, including making aerators mandatory for all public taps, apartment complexes, restaurants, industries, and commercial establishments.

However, senior BWSSB officials said that not all establishments had complied with the order, and many hoteliers and businesses were yet to install aerators.

"We have been urging them to install aerators. We also print the message on the water bill. However, we have not been able to achieve 100% coverage," a senior BWSSB official said.

A hotelier from Yelahanka said he had not installed an aerator because taps in his establishment needed frequent repairs. "I did install an aerator last May, but it stopped working after a few days. Besides, since many people use our taps, I felt there was no point in installing a new one. Taps keep getting repaired owing to rough use by the public," he said.

Manohar said the board was persuading more establishments to follow the rule and expected many more aerators to be installed by next summer as awareness increased.

Aerators reduce water consumption by increasing the pressure of the flow from taps.

Senior BWSSB officials said they could help bring down usage by at least 60%.

Science Gallery Bengaluru partners with Imperial College London to boost innovation

BENGALURU, DHNS

Science Gallery Bengaluru (SGB) has partnered with Imperial College London to develop new facilities in Bengaluru, in addition to launching a joint fellowship programme and various public engagement activities.

The partnership aims to drive the exchange of research and talent between India and the UK. This was formally announced by Professor Hugh Brady, President of Imperial College London, and Jahnavi Phalkey, Founding Director of SGB, on Thursday. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed by Jahnavi and Amanda Wolthuizen, Vice-President (Strategic Engagement) at Imperial.

Officials from Imperial are currently in India as part of the UK delegation led by the British Prime Minister, who is making his first official visit to India.

As part of the initiative, SGB's Public Lab Complex will be diversified and expanded across five existing areas — Nature Lab, Materials Lab, Food Lab, New Media Lab, and Theory Lab — aimed at converting SGB into an idea incubator.

The two organisations will also be co-developing programmes to create a bridge between the Public Lab Complex and the WestTech London innovation ecosystem and Imperial Schools of Convergence Science. Various public engagement initiatives will also be organised as part of the initiative.

Apart from this, a joint fellowship programme has also been announced. "The fellowship is not restricted to just fellows from the UK and India. It will be open to fellows across the world. We will also have an apprentice programme for young adults to work in the labs with fellows. This will help develop the capacity of young people to be able to learn from these research ideas," Jahnavi told *DH*.

Imperial has also applied to establish a liaison office in India, pending approval from the regulatory authorities.

MOULDING JOY

With practiced ease, a potter in Pottery Town arranges freshly moulded diyas ahead of Deepavali, which falls on October 20. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Vidya Soudha PU College: Guru Vandana, honouring teachers; Manje Gowda and others; Near Basaveshwara Bus Station, Peenya 1st Stage.

National Small Industries Corporation Ltd: MSME Market Conclave; Shobha Karandlaje, SCL Das, Subhransu Sekhar Acharya, Atish Kumar Singh and BR Ganesh Rao to participate; Kassia Auditorium, Vijayanagar; 9.30 am.

Government Arts College: Inauguration of cultural, sports, Kannada Association and other activities; Rizwan Arshad, L Hanumanthaiah, Ramesh B, Usha BN, BC Nagendra Kumar to participate; KR Circle; 10.30 am.

Kannada Sahitya Parishath: Presentation of endowment awards to HS Suresh, Mitra Venktaraju and BS Shailaja; Chamarajpet; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Rotary Club: 'Kala for Vidya'; Bengaluru International Centre, Domlur; 5 pm.

Udayabhanu Kalasangha: Celebrating birth anniversary of K Shivaram Karanth; Sangha premises, Kempegowdanagar; 6 pm.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations: Ramya Varna-Bharatanatya recital; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain and thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	86%
Sunset (Oct 10)	6:05 pm
Sunrise (Oct 11)	6:09 am
Moonrise	7:52 pm
Moonset	8:03 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Uber to introduce intercity motorhome service in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Uber is set to launch its intercity motorhome service in Bengaluru as part of a limited-time campaign, starting October 15.

Following a pilot in Delhi NCR earlier this year, the service has now expanded to Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Pune. In Bengaluru, it will remain operational until December 31, with bookings opening on October 13.

Luxe features

- The offering features custom-designed, caravan-style motorhomes for outstation road trips.
- Each vehicle accommodates four to five passengers and is equipped with amenities such as a television, microwave, mini-refrigerator, and lavatory.
- A dedicated driver and helper are included to assist throughout the journey.
- Bookings must be made at least 48 hours in advance.

Karnatic concert on Sunday

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present a thematic concert on the compositions of Muthuswamy Dikshitar with Vivek Sadasivam (vocals), Charaulatha Ramanujam (violin), Arjun Kumar (mridanga), and Ranganatha Chakravarthy (ghata).

It will be held at 5.30 pm on Sunday at 9th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
E-Mail - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

Name of Work: Consultancy Services for Preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan in and around Jamshedpur and Dhanbad Cities in the State of Jharkhand for Next 25 Years
Ref PR No.: 362608
Tender ID: 2025_UDD_105060_1
NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/CMP/JSR DHN/2025 – 664

CORRIGENDUM 2

Sl. No.	Clause No.	As per RFP	As per Corrigendum
1	Notice Inviting Tender 5. Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	07.10.2025; 1700 Hrs.	14.10.2025; 1700 Hrs.
2	Notice Inviting Tender 6. Date & Time of Bid Opening	08.10.2025; 1700 Hrs	15.10.2025; 1700 Hrs

Sd/-
(B K Roy)
PR 363697 (Urban Development) 25-26 (D) **Project Director (Technical)**

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Tender Notice No.: EL_TRO_46_25-26; **Dated:** 06-10-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.:** EL_TRO_46_25-26; **Name of Work :** Annual Maintenance Contract of GPS based Fog Safe Device for crew lobby Katihar, New Jalpaiguri and Malda Town of Katihar Division, N.F. Railway for a period of two years (24 Months). **Approx value of work:** ₹58,79,022.62/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹1,17,600/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **28-10-2025**. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to **15:00** hrs. on **28-10-2025** in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/TRD, Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PROVISION OF GRID CONNECTED ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER PLANT

Tender Notice No. DY.CEE/PS/MLG/HQ35R2/24-25 Dated: 07-10-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** At Maligaon (HQ) Division -(Part A) Provision of 1733 KWp Grid connected rooftop Solar Power plant including 5 years AMC/ CAMC at rooftop of Service building & residential buildings in Goshala & Nambari Area. **Tender Value:** ₹10,68,52,150.62/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹6,84,300/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15.00** hrs. on **28-10-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy.CEE/PS/Maligaon/HQ
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH INDIAN Bank Date: 09.10.2025

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CANTONMENT BRANCH
#10, Infantry Road Cross, B. M. Complex, Opp. Blue Cross Chambers, Shivajinagar, **BANGALORE - 560 001.**
Ph: 080 - 46005898 Email: br0009@sib.co.in

The Gold Articles pledged under the following number/s at **Bangalore Cantonment Branch,** which are not cleared by payment of Bank's dues even after serving registered notice and Gold articles pledged under same number against which registered notices have been served/returned undelivered, will be sold in **public auction or private treaty on as is where is condition** at Branch premises as under or any other convenient date and time without further notice at the risk and responsibility of the pawners, if they are not released from the branch.
Auction of Gold ornaments pledged under the following accounts will be held at Branch premises on **24.10.2025 at 4.00 P.M, Branch : Cantonment, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.**

Sl. No.	Name	A/c No.	Gross Wt (in gms)
1	SANDRON R	0009653000065516	151.1
2	MARIYAMMA P	0009653000065591	135.8
3	MARIYAMMA P	0009653000065592	102.6
4	JUNAID AHMED	0009653000065648	11.0
5	VIJAYA	0009653000065665	6.1
6	DHANRAJ	0009653000061340	63.7
7	DHANRAJ	0009653000061556	4.7
8	DHANRAJ	0009653000064468	4.2

Bank reserves its rights to cancel/ adjourn the auction without giving any reason at any time. Sd/- **Manager**

Corporate Office Regd. Office: SIB House, T B Road, Mission Quarters, Thrissur, Kerala - 680001
Telephone Number : + 91-487-2420020, Fax Number : + 91-487-2420020, E-Mail : sibcorporate@sib.co.in,
Website : www.southindianbank.com. Corporate Identity Number: L65191KL1929PLC001017

CORRIGENDUM - 2 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2025/SEP/02, DATED. 11-09-2025

Corrigendum - 2 for Tender Notice No. CON/2025/SEP/02 has been issued against **Tender No. CE/CON/J-I/DDC/2025/13.** For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Chief Engineer/Con/Manipur Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. : SDSTE-FRP-SIG-UNIT-25-RE, dated 07.10.2025. Open e-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, DRM Building, near Howrah Railway station, Howrah-711101 in Single Packet System for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work :** Provision of FRP Signal Units of RDSO specification in place of metallic Signal Units. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 3,26,82,484/-. **Earnest Money/Bid Security :** ₹ 3,13,400/-. **Tender Document cost :** 0.00. **Bidding Start Date :** 15.10.2025. **Period of Completion :** 09 Months. **Validity of Offer :** 60 Days. **Tender Closing Date & Time :** 29.10.2025, 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Uploading Tender:** 07.10.2025, 11.27 hrs.
(HWH-330/2025-26)
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer
1st Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore 560 009
No.BWSSB/FA&CAO/AC-Acts/AAO/e-Auction-Bid-2025-26/142 Date: 08/10/2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB intends to invest its surplus funds in short-term deposits with Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks under Scheduled Commercial Banks, and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating within the BBMP limits through e-Auction.

Details regarding the quantum of investment and the deposit period are provided in the bid documents, which can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Complete information related to the e-Auction process is available on the Government of Karnataka e-portal at the following link: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTender/live

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/3170/AKAR/2025-26 **Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer**

CORRIGENDUM OF RE-ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS ON RANGIYA DIVISION

Notification No. E/228/Re-engagement/RN/25
Dated: 28.08.2025

The last date for submission of online application for re-engagement of retired railway employees on contractual basis on Rangiya Division has been extended upto **30.10.2025**.

Other terms and conditions will remain same.

Divisional Railway Manager (P), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
E-Mail - **pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com**
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

CORRIGENDUM - 3

Name of Work: Consultancy Services for Preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan in and around Jamshedpur and Dhanbad Cities in the State of Jharkhand for Next 25 Years
Ref PR No.: 362608
Tender ID: 2025_UDD_105060_1
NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/CMP/JSR DHN/2025 – 664
Corrigendum – 3 for the tender "Consultancy Services for Preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan in and around Jamshedpur and Dhanbad Cities in the State of Jharkhand for Next 25 Years" has been published on the Government of Jharkhand's e-procurement website.
All bidders are requested to review it before submitting their bids.

Sd/-
(B K Roy)
Project Director (Technical)
PR 363710 (Urban Development)25-26*D

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Tender Notice No. : KIR-N-2025-K-40; **Dated:** 07-10-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Name of Work :** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of G.G. Tronics make MSDAC System in Auto Section (Aluabari Road-Ambari Falakata Station) of Katihar division. **Tender Value:** ₹4,76,24,395/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹3,88,100/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **29-10-2025**. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto **15:00** hrs. on **29-10-2025** in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (S&T), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM - I
Tender Notice
No. EPC-WCR-JBP-SnT-PROJ-04
Date 17/09/2025

Name of Work:- Survey, design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of track side KAVACH (Indian Railway Automatic Train Protection System) equipment at stations/LC Gates/IBSlocations including OFC works, erection of towers and associated Civil/Track/ Electrical Works required for KAVACH in ITARSI-MANIKPUR, MAHDEIYA-BINA MALKHERI MAHADEOKHERI, Entire KATNI COMPLEX, BINA MALKHERI-AGASOD, SATNA-REWA, KAIMA-SAGMA, BANSAPAHAR-OHAN section of Jabalpur Division of West Central Railway. Please note the correction as under - **New Document Uplode in IREPS-**EPC Final as per Standard EPC Agreement with Schedule G-106.10.2025Corr1.pdf, **Document deleted from IREPS-** EPC final 17092025.pdf, **Description-** EPC document Corrigendum1, **New Document Uplode in IREPS-** Feasibility report Final Kavach Jbp Project 06.10.2025 Corr1.pdf, **Document deleted from IREPS-** Feasibility report Kavach JBP Project 17092025.pdf, **Description-** Feasibility Report Corrigendum1, **New Document Uplode in IREPS-** ETIPSI037RC.pdf (drawing), **Description-** Structural details for LT supply transformers, **New Document Uplode in IREPS-**Reply to Prospective Bidders.pdf, **Description-** Reply to Bidders., All other terms & conditions in the Tender remain unchanged., Visit our website http://ireps.gov.in for details.

SD/-
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication, Engg. (Project)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/50, Dated: 24/09/2025. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective / likely suppliers are requested to look up the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost** are as follows : **[305]; 14252953B;** Scavenge Blower To MR Blower Including Motor (Wound With Corona Resistance Wire) To Drg./Spec. No. (1) CLW/ES/3/0022/H & (2) SPEC/E-10/3/09 (Motor) with Amendment Nos. 01 TO 06; **As per Tender/Documents;** 10/10/2025; **₹0.00. [306]; 14253000A;** Electrical Signal Exchange System For Three Phase Locomotive [Each System Consists of-(i) Two Sets of LED Lights, (ii) Operating Panel/Switches For Loco Pilot and Assistant Loco Pilot Separately and (iii) Harnessed Cable For Connection]. Spec: CLW/MS/03/0670 ALT-2 [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5 %, Item Category : Normal , Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; **As per Tender/Documents;** 16/10/2025; **₹0.00. [307]; 14252984F; 1)** Pantograph Mounting Insulator To Drg./Spec. No. CLW/ES/AC/I-1/K, CLW/ES/SK-4 /AC/I-1/K, **2)** Roof Line Insulator To Drg./Spec. No.CLW/ES/AC/I-1/K, CLW/ES/SK-2/AC/I-1/K; **As per Tender/Documents;** 23/10/2025; **₹0.00.**
PR1/217 PCMM/CLW/Howrah
Like us on : www.facebook.com/clwrailways

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/**gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com**

Notice inviting tender for procurement through rate contract

JBVNL invites online e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound manufacturers/ authorized supplier only for supply of following Material through rate contract :-

Sr	NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item	Tender fee	Date of publication of tender on website	Document download start date & time	Online Bid Submission start date	Online Bid Submission end date	Technical bid opening date and time
1	**210/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** ISI Marked ACSR Wolf Conductor	Rs 10000/- + GST	13/10/2025 from 13:00 Hrs.	13/10/2025 from 13:10 Hrs.	13/10/2025 from 13:20 Hrs.	04/11/2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.	06/11/2025 at 18: 00 Hrs.
2	**211/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** 11 KV 3 Pin Type AB Switch 630 Amp.	Rs 10000/- + GST	13/10/2025 from 13:00 Hrs.	13/10/2025 from 13:10 Hrs.	13/10/2025 from 13:20 Hrs.	04/11/2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.	06/11/2025 at 18: 00 Hrs.
3	**212/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** 11/0.4 KV, BIS level -I, 500 KVA Cu. Wd. CRGO CORE, Distribution Transformer	Rs 10000/- + GST	13/10/2025 from 13:00 Hrs.	13/10/2025 from 13:10 Hrs.	13/10/2025 from 13:20 Hrs.	04/11/2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.	06/11/2025 at 18: 00 Hrs.
4	**213/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** Trolley mounted distribution sub-station with BIS Level-I, Cu. Wd. 500 KVA DTR along with all accessories & equipment	Rs 10000/- + GST	14/10/2025 from 13:00 Hrs.	14/10/2025 from 13:10 Hrs.	14/10/2025 from 13:20 Hrs.	06/11/2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.	07/11/2025 at 18: 00 Hrs.
5	**214/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** Steel Tubular Pole 9 meter	Rs 10000/- + GST	14/10/2025 from 13:00 Hrs.	14/10/2025 from 13:10 Hrs.	14/10/2025 from 13:20 Hrs.	06/11/2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.	07/11/2025 at 18: 00 Hrs.
6	**215/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** Primary injection set & Secondary injection set including copper cable 50 Sq.mm.	Rs 10000/- + GST	14/10/2025 from 13:00 Hrs.	14/10/2025 from 13:10 Hrs.	14/10/2025 from 13:20 Hrs.	06/11/2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.	07/11/2025 at 18: 00 Hrs.
7	**216/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** Accucheck for HT & LT meter testing, Tong Tester for HT/ LT & Multi meter	Rs 10000/- + GST	14/10/2025 from 13:00 Hrs.	14/10/2025 from 13:10 Hrs.	14/10/2025 from 13:20 Hrs.	06/11/2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.	07/11/2025 at 18: 00 Hrs.

NOTE:- **(i)**Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9431135523/ 9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178
(ii) Tender fee & EMD must be paid through online mode.
(iii) Tender fee is non-refundable.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager(P)
JBVNL
PR 363738 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)25-26*D

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN No.:U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002 (E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com

1st TIME EXTENSION NOTICE

Important date against NIT No. 399/PR/JUSNL/2025-26 for Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials/ Equipments, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132/33 KV, 2 x 80 MVA GIS Sub-Station including approach road as well as other civil works near Binod Bihari Chowk on turnkey basis is hereby extended in following manner:-

End date and time of upload of BID	23.10.2025 up to 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical & commercial part	24.10.2025 at 04.00 PM

This extension notice is also available on the website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनीशिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR No. 361625
Sd/-
General Manager C&M (NWBP)
PR 363759 (Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd)25-26*D

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN No.:U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002
Fax No.:0651-2400123 (E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

1st TIME EXTENSION NOTICE

Important date against NIT No. 400/PR/JUSNL/2025-26 for Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials/ Equipments, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of LILO of 1ckt of 220 kV TTPS-Govindpur TL at proposed Maithon GSS (40 Km.) on turnkey basis is hereby extended in following manner:-

End date and time of upload of BID	23.10.2025 up to 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical & commercial part	24.10.2025 at 04.00 PM

This extension notice is also available on the website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR No. 361637
Sd/-
General Manager C&M (NWBP)
PR 363761 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(25-26)#D

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Kannada activists protest unsealing of Bigg Boss studio

BENGALURU, DHNS: A protest by pro-Kannada activists at Jollywood Studios and Adventures, the set of the popular Kannada reality show 'Bigg Boss' at Bidadi, ended in detentions on Thursday after demonstrators accused Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and the district administration of "bending" environmental norms to favour the high-profile establishment.

The outrage follows the controversial unsealing of the studio, which the KSPCB had shut earlier over various environmental violations.

The protest was led by Kannada activists T Neelesh Gowda and Narasimhamurthy. Activists staged a demonstration in front of the Bidadi-based park.

Adding a political dimension to the controversy, Narasimhamurthy alleged that the DCM's office had acted under external pressure. Jollywood Park, owned by Vels Studios and Entertainment Limited, is a company based in Tamil Nadu.

Narasimhamurthy claimed that the lock was cleared immediately after an intervention from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

A KSPCB official noted that there was no change in the board's opinion.

Lancaster University to open campus in Bengaluru

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a historic move which will boost educational ties between India and the United Kingdom, Lancaster University will open a campus in Bengaluru, the city known for its institutions in the field of education, research and innovation.

Nine UK universities will open their campuses pan-India.

The decision was announced after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Keir Starmer at the Raj Bhavan here on Thursday.

The Lancaster University, based in Lancashire, England, is one of the top universities in Britain.

Cabinet modifies 'Anna Bhagya'; Indira kit in lieu of 5 kg addl rice

Govt gets to save Rs 306 crore per month with this move

BENGALURU, DHNS

In an alteration to the Anna Bhagya scheme—one of the five flagship guarantees of the Congress government—the Cabinet decided on Thursday to provide 5 kg rice and an Indira kit (1 kg green gram, 1 kg tur dal, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg salt and 1 kg cooking oil) to BPL cardholders.

Addressing a news conference after the Cabinet meeting, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa said, "We have been giving 10 kg rice. But later, we did a survey, where we found that 10 kg rice was being misused a bit. After that, we conducted a survey, where 90% of the customers preferred dal, sugar, cooking oil, sugar and salt. We discussed this with the CM, who agreed."

Currently, the union government is providing 5 kg rice, while the state government is providing another 5 kg rice.

The minister said there were a total of 1.26 crore BPL families in the state (4.48 crore beneficiaries).

The government has decided to provide the Indira Kit based on the size of the family.

For ration cardholders whose families have 1-2 members (32.56 lakh families), the quantity will be halved, while for ration cardholding families with 3-4 members (63 lakh families), the proposed quantity will be provided.

For families with 5 or more people (30 lakh families), one-and-a-half times the quantity will be provided.

As per a document by the Food and Civil Supplies Department, the government spends Rs 6,426 crore per year on the additional 5 kg rice.

The Indira kit will bring down the expenditure to Rs 6,119 crore. Thus, the government will save Rs 306.48 crore per month.

Other decisions

The Cabinet approved Rs 38.33 crore to adopt new technology to renovate the State Data Centre and increase cyber security. It was decided to procure the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System 2.0 (ICJS – 2.0) at Rs 89.22 crore.

The tenure of the 5th state planning commission has been extended. The Cabinet okayed the labour department's plan to build 11 shramik residential schools at Rs 405.55 crore for kids of workers registered under the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

CM to hold banquet for ministers on October 13

Meet may discuss ways to fight off graft charges

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is holding a banquet for his Cabinet colleagues on October 13, where he wants to discuss what the Congress government can do to fight off corruption allegations, which caused the undoing of the previous BJP regime.

The ruling Congress is worried about the optics of a recent letter the Karnataka State Contractors Association (KSCA) wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The letter claimed that the quantum of commission, or kickbacks, had "doubled" under the Congress government. The association's letter was discussed at the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday, according to one minister.

While Siddaramaiah is expected to discuss a variety of issues, corruption allegations will be one of them.

"We can't afford to neglect issues raised by the contractors. The previous (BJP) government did that and suffered consequences in the election," a source said.

In its September 25 letter to Siddaramaiah, KSCA reminded the CM of his promise when he was leader of the Opposition.

"You told us that after you'd come to power, no commission (kickback) will be sought by your government to clear pending bills. We regret to inform you that the commission has doubled now compared with the previous government," it said.

In July 2021, the KSCA had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi complaining that contractors were forced to pay a cut to ministers, elected representatives, and officials.

This gave birth to the viral '40% commission' allegation, which contributed to the Congress' victory in 2023.

"We'd like to bring to your notice that it was our fight against corruption that played some role in your government coming to power," the KSCA told Siddaramaiah.

Ministers G Parameshwara, K H Muniyappa and Shivaraj Tangadagi played down the CM's banquet.

Even Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar played it down thus: "What's wrong with that?"

ANNUAL FETE

The doors of the Hasanamba temple were opened for the annual Jatra celebrations in Hassan on Thursday. (Inset) The oil lamps, lit last year, were found burning inside the sanctum sanctorum. DH PHOTOS

ED seizures in online betting case against Cong MLA cross Rs 150 crore

40 kg of 24-carat gold bullion worth Rs 50.33 cr latest confiscation

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized assets worth over Rs 150 crore in connection with an illegal online betting case against Congress MLA K C Veerendra (Puppy).

The ED's Bengaluru Zonal Office carried out search operations on Thursday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

K C Veerendra

On Thursday, ED officials seized 40 kg of 24-carat gold bullion worth Rs 50.33 crore from two separate lockers in Challakere. With this latest action, the total seizure in the case has topped Rs 150 crore.

Prior to this, the ED had attached or seized assets worth Rs 103 crore, which included around 21 kg of gold bars, cash, jewellery, high-end vehicles and bank balances.

The search operations were carried out even as the sitting MLA remains in judicial custody.

According to the ED, its investigation revealed that Puppy, along with his family members and associates, "masterminded" the operation of several illegal online betting websites, notably King567 and Raja567. These platforms were reportedly used to "cheat" innocent players, it added.

Investigators found that the estimated illegal turnover generated by the betting applications under Veerendra's control exceeded Rs 2,000 crore.

The central agency traced a "sophisticated money-laundering mechanism".

Funds collected from players were routed through various payment gateways, including FonePaisa, before being channelled through a large network of 'mule accounts'.

These accounts were sourced by intermediaries from across India, revealing a nexus between online betting racket and isolated instances of cybercrime across the country.

Further investigation exposed the lavish expenses financed through the proceeds of crime.

The funds were allegedly diverted through the mule accounts to pay for high-value transactions, including international travel tickets, visa fees and hospitality services worth crores of rupees for Puppy, his family and associates. Operational costs such as marketing, bulk SMS services, platform hosting and search engine optimization were masked and paid using these intermediary accounts, all controlled by the MLA and his inner circle, the ED said.

Cabinet okays 12 paid menstrual leaves per year for working women

Menstrual leaves, from Page 1

The policy is based on a report submitted in 2024 by an 18-member committee headed by Sapna S, associate dean and HoD, School of Law, Christ (Deemed to be) University.

The committee had representation from industries, trade unions, government representatives, and doctors, gynecologists and professors from the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC) and Christ University.

After extensive discussions, the committee had recommended six days of menstrual leave per year. However, the government decided to increase this to 12 days per year (one per month). The committee decided on the usage "menstrual leave", with the intention that "women should not hesitate or feel shy about accessing this entitlement".

As per the policy, even establishments employing five or more persons for exhibition of equestrian, acrobatic and other performances are covered.

The policy mandates that all reports of discrimination or harassment related to the leave will be dealt with "promptly" and "appropriately" as per the organisation's grievance policy.

Sources in the Labour Department told *DH* that these leaves are not encashable, and that the discretion of taking the leave lies with the menstruating woman employee. No clubbing of leaves across months will be allowed.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad hailed the policy as "progressive" and "pro-women".

"Women can choose a one-day leave per month whenever they want, based on their menstrual period. We went through a series of discussions and deliberations. Women have to play many roles — mother, wife, caretaker of the house, and employee. This was the reason behind this initiative," Lad told reporters.

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) welcomed the move. "This move will empower millions of women in the private and public organised sector and is a progressive measure to protect the rights of women. It recognises the mental and physical well being of women and will encourage greater participation of women in the workforce," the AITUC said in a press statement.

Cong on edge: Leadership change or Cabinet rejig?

Cabinet, from Page 1

"I don't know anything about that," Shivakumar, the Karnataka Congress president, said. "It is left to the party high command and the CM. If I am asked, I will give my opinion," he said curtly.

Shivakumar also requested people not to speculate. "Don't heed any such discussion and create confusion," he said. According to sources, Shivakumar has been arguing within the party that a Cabinet rejig should happen along with him becoming the CM.

Shivakumar is said to have asked his loyalists not to get intimidated by "machinations" from Siddaramaiah's camp. It is also said that Shivakumar is confident that his time will come.

Adding to the curiosity was an hour-long closed-door meeting Home Minister G Parameshwara, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa (both SCs) and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi (ST) had on Thursday. Further, it is said that a delegation from the party wants to meet the high command after the Bihar polls to seek clarity on the 'leadership' issue and press for the appointment of a new Karnataka Congress president.

Meanwhile, Bangarpet MLA S N Narayanaswamy said he should be made a minister. "The SC (Right) population is high in Kolar. No SC (Right) lawmaker has become a minister from this region in many years," he said. Recently, Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed also demanded a Cabinet position citing seniority.

BU students, faculty protest against bid to hurl shoe at CJI

BENGALURU, DHNS: Students and faculty members of Bangalore University (BU) staged a protest condemning the attempt to hurl a shoe at Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai, at the Jnanabharathi campus on Thursday. The protest was called by BU's postgraduate and research scholars' union.

The union submitted a memorandum to Dr Jayakara S M, the BU vice-chancellor, urging that a resolution condemning the incident be passed in the Academic Council and Syndicate meetings of the university.

Jayakara said, "The entire nation must bow its head in shame over the act committed against the CJI."

Owner of firm that made 'killer' syrup arrested...

Syrup, from Page 1

The arrest comes a day after the Tamil Nadu government sealed the factory owned by Sresan Pharmaceuticals in Sunguvarchatiram near Chennai and the State Drugs Control Department issued two show-cause notices to the manufacturer, directing it to recall all remaining stock of Coldrif, the killer syrup, and provide complete distribution records within five days.

The Madhya Pradesh police had registered a case against paediatrician Dr Praveen Soni and Ranganathan of Sresan Pharmaceuticals.

As the issue made national headlines and politicians in Tamil Nadu started blaming the DMK dispensation for children's death, Health Minister Ma Subramanian laid the blame on Central and Madhya Pradesh governments for not taking action after they were informed that the cough syrup was found to be contaminated with a toxic substance.

Subramanian said the MP government wrote to its TN counterparts on October 1 about the deaths of the children following which an investigation by the government here found that the syrup was unfit for consumption.

"Despite our warning, the Madhya Pradesh and the Union government maintained that there was nothing wrong with the syrup. But after we conducted a lab test that found that the syrup was heavily contaminated, we issued a 'stop production' order on October 3," Subramanian said.

He added that Tamil Nadu has suspended two of its senior drug officials after the deaths of 21 children were linked to Sresan Pharmaceuticals.

India inks Rs 4.1k-cr missile deal...

Missile deal, from Page 1

New Delhi and London also agreed on the intent to finalise an inter-governmental agreement, worth an initial Rs 2,956 crore, for the United Kingdom's support to develop electric propulsion systems in India for deployment on the Indian Navy's platforms.

Capability boost

The LLMs will boost India's capability to deter missile and drone attacks by its adversaries.

It will further support India's air defence capabilities and, in the spirit of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', meet the country's current and future defence requirements, and "support a long-term collaboration" with the UK on complex weapons, according to a joint statement issued by both sides after the Modi-Starmer meeting.

The LLM system for India will be manufactured at a production facility of the Paris-headquartered Thales Group at Belfast in Northern Ireland of the UK.

The same facility has been manufacturing the LLM systems for Ukraine.

CM launches 'Water is Future' campaign

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday defended the KC Valley project, stating it has significantly improved groundwater levels in Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts.

Speaking at the 'Water is Future' campaign organised by the Minor Irrigation Department, he said, "Apart from 144 taluks, the rest face water scarcity. The KC Valley project was launched to fill lakes, which has led to groundwater recharge, though some still oppose it."

The CM noted that thousands of crores have been spent on improving groundwater in Chikkaballapur, Doddaballapur, Tumakuru, and Bengaluru Rural districts.

"Karnataka is doing the best lake rejuvenation work in Asia," he claimed, adding that groundwater is accessed through 37 lakh borewells, with lakhs of unauthorised ones also in use.

Siddaramaiah urged Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Boseraju to extend awareness campaigns to districts and homes, stressing public understanding of water conservation.

Minister Boseraju said encroachments on 41,849 lakes would be cleared by December, with over 35,000 already cleared. "Water is being filled in 1,018 lakes annually, benefiting 25 lakh acres," he said, attributing recharge to the HN and KC Valley projects.

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar said, "Our water, our right – the fight hasn't stopped," criticising Karnataka MPs and Union Ministers for not pushing water-related issues. He cited pending projects, like Mekedatu and Upper Krishna, and promised drinking water for Tumakuru, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur by 2027 via Yettinahole.

Pain during menstrual cramps is like heart attack: Leave policy panel chief

INTERVIEW

Following the government's decision to implement the menstrual leave policy, *DH*'s **Sujay B M** spoke to **Sapna S** (associate dean & HoD, School of Law, Christ Deemed-to-be University), who headed an 18-member committee that proposed the contours of the policy and challenges ahead.

Your committee had proposed 6 days of menstrual leaves per year, but the government has increased it to 12 days.

Initially, we proposed one-day menstrual leave. But after huge opposition, we went with 6 days. However, it's a momentous decision by the government to make it 12 days a year and extend it to all organisations. It's a recognition of gender equity and we shouldn't just look at it as a one-day leave.

There were concerns that this may lead to mass leaves, loss of productivity in women-intensive industries and so on.

This formed the core of our discussions. I explained that by asking this question, they had already answered it. For women-intensive organisations, it's all the more important to introduce these measures. To think that this will lead to mass leaves is very illogical. All organisations will have HRs and supervisors, who can work out a solution. Research shows that the pain a woman undergoes during menstrual cramps is almost equal to a heart attack. This affirmative action will only lead to more productivity, where women will feel safe.

Sapna S

A person on your committee felt implementing this policy will lead to "untouchability" for women.

This viewpoint has a lot of contradictions. That dimension comes from social conditioning, where menstrual leaves are attached with a stigma. Because of this, people are hesitant to seek menstrual leaves. We made a categorical decision to call it menstrual leaves. Otherwise, the social stigma cannot be dealt with. This doesn't affect women alone, but is instead a societal issue.

You recommended sensitisation programmes alongside leaves.

All employees, men and women, have to be sensitised that this is advantageous to women and has to be provided. In the committee, both men and women objected due to social conditioning. This has to be addressed.

This policy doesn't include unorganised sector. How can this be resolved?

This policy mandates an employer-employee ecosystem. So, definitely, this is a limitation in the policy. With time, sensitisation and orientation through media, things may change.

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9-year-old girl kidnapped, raped, murdered in Mysuru

Suspect with criminal past arrested in Kollegal

MYSURU, DHNS

A nine-year-old girl was found murdered under suspicious circumstances near the Dasara Exhibition Grounds at Indira Nagar (Ittigegud), in the jurisdiction of Nazarbad Police Station, in the early hours of Thursday. Police suspect kidnapping, sexual assault, and murder.

The incident is said to have occurred between 11.30 pm and 5 am. The victim's body was discovered around 6 am in a ditch near a drainage, approximately 50 metres from her family's temporary tent.

Her pants and innerwear were missing, and she sustained injuries to her head, cheek, neck, and elbow.

The deceased was a class 3 student and the second of five children in a nomadic family from Kalaburagi.

Her parents, belonging to the Adi Karnataka community, had come to Mysuru around 20 days ago along with ten other families to sell balloons and dolls during the Dasara festivities. They were staying in a roadside shed near Nagaswamy Temple on Manasara Road.

According to the complaint, the girl had been sleeping with her grandmother on Wednesday night, while her parents and siblings slept nearby.

Karthik, the suspect.

Around 4.30 am, the family woke up due to the rain and found the child missing. A search led to the discovery of her body near the Exhibition Grounds' parking area.

Based on CCTV camera footage, police identified and traced Karthik, the suspect, to Kollegal. He was reportedly shot in the leg while trying to flee during the arrest.

The accused, a 31-year-old resident of Siddalingapura in Mysuru taluk, has a criminal history, including a previous arrest in an attempted rape case in Mandya. He was released from prison recently and is said to be an alcoholic who frequented the area.

Senior police officials, including DCPs R N Bindu Mani and K S Sundar Raj, visited the spot of the incident along with forensic experts and a dog squad.

An FIR has been registered under the Sections 4, 5(i), 5(m), and 6 of the POCSO Act, along with the Sections 137(2), 65(2), and 103(1) of the BNS at the Nazarbad Police Station.

Notably, the victim's family had planned to return to Kalaburagi on Thursday, following the conclusion of the Dasara celebrations in Mysuru.

This incident occurred just metres away from the site where another man, Venkatesh alias Gilki (45), was found murdered on Tuesday.

Three arrested for burglary at judge's house in Muddebihal

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: The Vijayapura district police claim to have solved the burglary case reported at the additional district judge's residence in Muddebihal with the arrest of three suspects.

The police gave away the names of the suspects as Sunil Rajput (28) of Ramapur Tanda-2 in Ramdurg taluk of Belagavi district, Chetan Lamani (28) of Naganur Tanda and Rahul Lamani (23), a native of Karlakattai in Saundatti taluk.

The police have recovered 250 grams of gold jewellery, 50 grams of silver jewellery and two cars, as many bikes and four mobile phones from the suspects.

As per the complaint lodged by the additional district judge, the burglars broke open his Hudco Colony house in Muddebihal town on August 24 and decamped with gold jewellery, silver items and cash worth Rs 30.14 lakh.

Following the burglary, the district police had constituted a special probe team to nab the culprits.

Chadchan bank heist: Police arrest prime suspect, 3 from Bihar who supplied pistols

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS

The prime suspect in the robbery reported on September 16 at the SBI branch at Chadchan in the district has been arrested.

This was announced at a press conference here by Additional Director General of Police (ADGP-Law and Order) R Hitendra on Thursday.

He refrained from naming the arrested person, hailing from Maharashtra, since the probe into the case was still going on. Bangles weighing 55 gram and a bike used in the heist have been recovered from him.

The suspect had recced the bank inside and outside several times before plotting the robbery, the officer said, adding that he had stolen a car in Mangalwada and used it for the purpose. He was arrested on October 7 and produced before the court.

The police have so far seized 9.01 kg of gold and Rs 86,31,220 in cash in the case.

The ADGP said that the identities of two other suspects in the case had been established and would be arrested soon. The remaining gold and cash burgled from the bank would be recovered, Hitendra said.

Three persons from Bihar who allegedly supplied pistols to the suspects had also been arrested and produced before the court, Hitendra said. They are Rakeshkumar Sahani (22), Rajukumar Paswan (21) and Rakshak Kumar Mato (21) of Samastipur.

Three masked men had entered the bank on the pretext of opening accounts. Holding knives and pistols, they threatened the bank staff, tied them up with ropes before making away with Rs 1.04 crore in cash and 20 kg of gold (worth Rs 20 crore approximately) from the strong room.

District Superintendent of Police Lakshman Nimbargi had formed seven special teams to investigate the case.

Boy dies in fire mishap in residential school near Madikeri

MADIKERI, DHNS: A seven-year-old boy died of burn injuries in a fire mishap that broke out in the wee hours at Har Mandir residential school near Katakeri, located about 10 km from here, on Thursday.

Pushpak was a class two student and the son of Anil Kumar from Chettimani village.

At the time of the incident, 53 students (30 boys and 23 girls) were staying in the tiled-roof building. Of them, 52 were rescued by fire personnel, residents, and police. The school has 72 students and 53 have returned after the Dasara vacation.

According to police sources, the fire broke out at 4.20 am. The wardens, with help from locals, began evacuating the sleeping children. However, the fire spread quickly and engulfed the entire building. Rescuers immediately rushed to save the kids. However, despite their efforts, Pushpak, who was trapped inside, could not be saved.

Har Mandir Residential School was established in 2019 by Delhi-based entrepreneur Omkar Singh and others, under the Indus Quality Foundation, a Delhi-based NGO.

The school provides free education and shelter for underprivileged children and is operating from an old building.

Initial investigations suggested a short circuit as the cause of the fire.

Police have registered cases against the school's owner and management board. An investigation is currently u nderway.

D'sthala devotees' plea: HC notices to govt, SIT

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered notices to the state government, the Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the Dharmasthala burial case; the Income Tax Department, and the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in a petition filed by four devotees of Shree Kshetra Dharmasthala Temple.

The petitioners contended that the SIT and other authorities had not taken any action on their complaints/representations against Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, Girish Mattannavar and several YouTubers.

The petitioners are Tejas A Gowda, a resident of Bengaluru, Dhanakirthi Ariga, Bhaskar Badekottu and Surendra Prabhu, all three residents of Belthangady taluk in Dakshina Kannada district. They claimed that the persons named by them in the complaint were funded to spread a "malicious campaign/conspiracy" against Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy Temple, its Dharmadhikari and his family members as well as associated institutions. .

According to the petitioners, the SIT had found that the initial complaint filed by a former sanitation worker at the temple was "false and vexatious". The SIT named the worker as an accused and arrested him.

They stated that the authorities, including the SIT, had not taken any action despite submitting representations in August and September 2025.

HC adjourns hearing on Prajwal's appeal against rape conviction

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday adjourned the hearing on criminal appeal filed by former MP Prajwal Revanna against his sentencing in a rape case until October 28.

On August 2, the special court for cases involving MPs/MLAs handed Prajwal life sentence (imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life) in the first of the four cases of rape/sexual abuse against him. However, Prajwal appealed against this.

A division bench of Justices K S Mudagal and Venkatesh Naik T directed the state government to specify as to whether the Special Investigation Team (SIT) will be represented by a special counsel in the high court as done during the special court. The court asked the counsel for Prajwal to file a comprehensive synopsis of the case.

In his appeal, Prajwal claimed contradictions in the victim's complaint and testimony, and claimed that the police had forced her to file the complaint. He also questioned the reliability of certain material evidence, such as stains reportedly found on a bed years after the incident.

This case pertains to the sexual assault of a 48-year-old woman who was working as a help at Gannikada guest house, belonging to the Revanna family, in Hassan. Prajwal allegedly recorded the act on his mobile phone.

This is the first of the four cases of sexual harassment registered against the former JD(S) MP.

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This public notice is hereby given that our client intends to lease land measuring 1 Acre – 25 Gunta (one acre – twenty – five gunta) comprised in Survey No. 23 situated at Seeghalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk ("**Said Land**"), from its present owner, DSR Prime Developers LLP ("**Owner**"), bounded as under:

North: Private Property bearing Survey No. 24

South: Private Property bearing Survey No. 23

East: Land in Survey No. 23

West: Road

In view of the above facts, this public notice is issued in the interest of all concerned and the general public so that if any entity/person, including any bank, financial institution, credit society or third party has any right, title, claim or interest over Said Land or has any objections to above-referred intended transaction by our client, or if any entity/person including any bank, financial institution, credit society or third party has any knowledge or is party to any sale, exchange, assignment, gift, license, tenancy, inheritance, pending litigation, possession, contract/ agreement, development rights, partnership, family arrangement/ settlement, decree or order of any Court of law / tribunal, hypothecation, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, acquisition by the Government or any entity, prohibition or any other impediment in respect of Said Land, such entity/person may inform the undersigned, with documentary proof, within 15 (fifteen) days of the publication of this public notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no adverse right, title, interest, share, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever exists in or upon or in respect of the Said Land, and the Owner is vested with absolute, clear, marketable and transferrable right, title and interest to the Said Land. It shall also be deemed that there are no impediments in respect of any future agreement/ transaction in respect of the Said Land.

Date: 10-10-2025

Arnav Sahni
Email: arnav.sahni@amsshardul.com
Contact Number: 7428295219
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas
Amarchand Towers, 216 Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase III, New Delhi-110020, India

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ಎಂ. ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ Ph.D. ಪದವಿ ಪ್ರದಾನ

ಸರಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ವರ್ತೂರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಅರ್ಥಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರಾದ ಎಂ. ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ, "Impact of Information and Communication Technology on Floriculture Crops in Karnataka: An Analysis of Production, Processing and Marketing" ಎಂಬ ವಿಷಯದ ಕುರಿತು ಪಿಎಚ್.ಡಿ. ಪದವಿ ಪ್ರದಾನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
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PERSONAL

Announcements

I, SAROJA B (BASAPPA) W/o. C.H.RAJAGOPAL Residing at No.4, 11th Main Road Shivanagar, Rajajinagar Bangalore -560010. Do hereby declare that in my Education records &'Passport (bearing No. M9396782) & some documents my date of birth is entered as 01-06-1964 instead of 10-10-1965. In further I will request the concerned authorities to do the correction & consider my date of birth as 10-10-1965, vide affidavit dated 29-09-2025 Before Notary C.K Anupama Bangalore

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Anushka Londhe,** residing at Tuba Palace 8, Hennur Main Road, Lingarajpuram, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560084, have changed my name to **ANUSHKA Y LONDHE** vide affidavit dated 06.10.2025 before notary Y.R. Chandrasekar Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **ANUSHKA Y LONDHE** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SRINIVASA BHAT Y M & SRINIVASA BHATTA YALAGODU MANJUNATH,** residing at No.914, 3rd Cross, Dwaraka Nagar, Channasandra, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **SRINIVASA BHAT Y M** vide affidavit 09.10.2025 before notary K.V. Prema Kumari, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Priya Philomin,** aged about 50 years, W/o. Prasad Rao, residing at No.206, Near Kaveri Circle, Kaveri Building, Kunjibettu, Kadiyali, Udupi Tq & Dist, have changed my name to **PRIYA PRASAD** vide affidavit dated 08.10.2025 before notary Indira K, Udupi.

I,SIRI MOHANA HOSAMANE MOHANA GOWDA S/o.Mohana Gowda H M residing at`No.35/3, BHCS-Layout, Thurahalli, Subramanyapura Post, Bangalore-560061 have`changed my`Name`to SIRI MOHANA vide`Affidavit Dtd:06.10.2025 Sworn`Before Notary G.R.Rajanna, Bangalore

SARAVANA. #38/1, Nandini Nilaya, 4th Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, Suddaguntepalya, Bengaluru-29, have changed my name to SARAVANA. K. Vide affidavit dated-09/10/2025

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **SHANTHA,** Residing at # 20,2nd Cross, RR Layout, Pattanagere, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru, have lost my **Original Sale Deed, Document No./ Identification: Servey No. 15/1, 16 Khata No. 314, Site No.20.** While transit. If found please contact: **8971110821**

CAUTION NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that our client **Mr.Mohamed Ebrahim Sait,** Son of Mr.Haroon Sait, Aged about 68 years, Residing at: No.39, 1st Floor, Victoria Layout, 3rd Cross, Vanarpet, Bangalore South, Bengaluru–560047 is the agreement holder having subsisting rights in respect of the below mentioned Schedule Property, having entered into an Agreement to Sell dated 12/03/2025 with Mrs.Naseema Saleem, Wife of Mr.Syed Saleem Ahmed, Aged about 64 years, Residing at: No.T3, 4th Floor, Golden Heights Apartments, 54, Millers Road, 2nd Cross, Bangalore–560046. The said Agreement to Sell dated 12/03/2025 is in force and our client has made substantial payments. Thus the General Public is hereby cautioned not to deal with the Schedule Property. Any person/s dealing with the Schedule Property without our client's consent will derive no title and he/she/they will be doing so at their own risks and costs and will not be binding on our client and our client will take necessary action against such person/s as per law.

:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that Property consisting of Site with a Commercial Building bearing Municipal No.411 (Old Site No.411), situated at 7th Block, Koramangala, Ward No. 147/Adugodi, P.I.D. No.67-7-411, Bangalore and Site measuring East to West: 12 Mtrs and North to South: 9.15 Mtrs and totally measuring 109.80 Sq.Mtrs equivalent to 1182 Sq.Ft, with a building comprising of Basement Floor, Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Terrace Floor and entire property is bounded by:-

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North by : Property No.412; and
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"The wise who renounce the fruits of their actions, have no re-birth and attain an abode of peace and tranquility"

- The Bhagavad Gita

Family Members

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
And
5 BENGALURU CITY CORPORATIONS

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Bengaluru City Development

GOVERNMENT'S BOLD STEP TOWARDS BUILDING A BETTER BENGALURU

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY's FIRST MEETING

Date: 10.10.2025, Friday | Timings: 4.00 PM

Place: Kempegowda Meeting Hall, Greater Bengaluru Authority Office Premises, Bengaluru

To Respond to the Citizens of Bengaluru

"Walk with Bengaluru" Citizens

By Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru City Development Minister

Sri D.K. Shivakumar

Programme

7.00 am to 8.00 am	8.00 am to 9.00 am	9.00 am to 10.00 am
Walk with citizens	Interaction with citizens	Inspection of various places

October 11 2025	Bengaluru Central City Corporation	Venue: Lalbagh Park
October 12 2025	Bengaluru North City Corporation	Venue: J.P. Park (Mathikere)
October 18 2025	Bengaluru East City Corporation	Venue: Vengaiah Eco Park T.C Palya, K.R Puram
October 19 2025	Bengaluru South City Corporation	Venue: Veera Yodhara Vana Park, Koramangala
October 25 2025	Bengaluru West City Corporation	Venue: Gandhi Park, Nagarbavi 2nd Stage
October 26 2025	Bengaluru Central City Corporation	Venue: Cubbon Park

Govt making 25 expressways at Rs 6 lakh crore, says Gadkari

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday that the government is constructing 25 greenfield expressways, totalling 10,000 km across the country, at a cost of Rs 6 lakh crore.

Addressing an event here, Gadkari said that the construction of expressways and economic corridors has helped reduce the country's logistics costs from 16% to 10% and it is expected to decrease further to 9% by December. He said the highways ministry will get Rs 15 lakh crore if it monetises its road projects.

Further, Gadkari said that around 75-80% of the work on the strategic Zojila Tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between the Ladakh region and the rest of the country, has been completed.

He noted that India's dependence on fossil fuels is an economic burden, as Rs 22 lakh crore is spent annually on fuel imports and is an environmental hazard, making the adoption of clean energy crucial for the country's progress.

He said that farmers have earned an extra Rs 45,000 crore by producing ethanol from corn.

Govt eyes to increase pulses production by 40% till 2030-31

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' on October 11 with a target to increase the country's pulses production to 350 lakh tonne by 2030-31 crop year.

Currently, the country produces 242 lakh tonnes of pulses and under the pulses mission, the Agriculture Ministry aims to increase the production by 40% to 350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31.

It is also planning to increase the pulses acreage to 310 lakh hectares by 2030-31 from the current 275 lakh hectares, the Union minister told media persons here.

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a six-year central scheme aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in pulses production, with a financial outlay of Rs 11,440 crore.

20 years of RTI Act: Over 4 lakh pending appeals, CIC without chief

Report shows lack of action against officials refusing to provide infomation

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As the RTI Act completes 20 years on Sunday, transparency watchdogs at the Centre and states are plagued with rising pendency of appeals that has now reached 4.13 lakh, and the functioning of panels is crippled by vacancies of Information Commissioners (ICs) and lack of action against officials refusing to provide information citing flimsy grounds.

The Central Information Commission (CIC) is headless and functioning with just two ICs, while the panels in Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh remain defunct for over five years and three months, respectively.

GROWING CHALLENGES

- **29-year delay:** Telangana Information Commission may take 29 years to hear a new RTI appeal, followed by Tripura (23 yrs) and Chhattisgarh (11 yrs).
- **Massive backlog:** Over 4.13 lakh RTI cases are pending across 29 commissions.
- **Poor compliance:** 69% commissions haven't published their 2023-24 annual reports, violating the RTI Act.
- **Defunct panels:** Five commissions lack chiefs; Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand are fully non-functional.

Functioning crippled

A 'Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India 2024-25' released on Thursday showed that the functioning of transparency watchdogs across the country have been crippled with vacancies and is adding to the pendency of appeals and complaints.

According to the report prepared by 'Satark Nagrik Sanghathan' (SNS), the CIC and 28 State Information Commissions (SICs) together have a pendency of 4.13 lakh as on June 30 this year, with Maharashtra (95,340), Karnataka (47,825) and Tamil Nadu (41,059) topping the list.

An analysis showed Telangana and Tripura SICs are estimated to take the longest time for disposing of appeals and complaints, as they were non-functional for several months.

It claimed Telangana SIC may take 29 years and two months to dispose of appeals and complaints filed on July 1, while Tripura may take 23 years.

Between July 1 last year and June 30 this year, 2.41 lakh appeals and complaints were registered with CIC and state ICs, while 1.82 lakh were disposed of. Maharashtra had registered the highest number of 54,869 appeals and complaints and 38,410 were disposed of, followed by Tamil Nadu (27,748 and 22,336) and Karnataka (27,490 and 26,802).

Disturbing trend

One of the disturbing trends cited by the report is the trend of CIC and SICs returning appeals and complaints without passing any order. Of the 51,148 such cases, Maharashtra topped the list at 23,509, followed by CIC (11,993), Bihar (8,729) and Karnataka (4,886).

In 2024, the report said, the CIC website showed that 38% of appeals and complaints were returned.

The report also lamented that the CIC and SICs are reluctant to use the provision of penalising Information Officers for denying information by interpreting the RTI law in the wrong way.

Only in 1,252 cases, penalties to the tune of Rs 2.32 crore were imposed between July last year and June this year. Chhattisgarh SIC imposed the highest amount of penalty at Rs 1.06 crore in 431 cases, followed by Karnataka SIC at Rs 38.11 lakh in 192 cases.

Cough syrup deaths: TN govt not cooperating with probe, says MP CM

Says his govt will not spare anyone playing with kids' lives

NAGPUR/BHOPAL, PTI

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday alleged that the Tamil Nadu government was not cooperating in connection with the probe linked to the death of 22 children from his state due to consumption of a cough syrup manufactured in the southern state.

He said his government will not spare anyone playing with the lives of children, and urged the Tamil Nadu government to take "concrete steps" and "proper action" in the episode.

Yadav visited the hospitals in Nagpur on Thursday to inquire about the health of children undergoing treatment there following the consumption of Coldrif cough syrup manufactured in Tamil Nadu.

Scan QR code to watch video

Twenty-two children, mostly from Chhindwara in MP, have died so far due to suspected kidney failure after consuming the cough syrup. The Madhya Pradesh police arrested Ranganathan, the owner of Tamil Nadu-based Sresan Pharma, in the wee hours of Thursday and also seized some documents from his factory.

Talking to reporters after his visit to the AIIMS and the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) in Nagpur, CM Yadav said, "The Madhya Pradesh police have arrested people from Tamil Nadu. However, the Tamil Nadu government is not cooperating the way it should. A proper report of the medicine concerned from the drug controller over there is expected." The pharma company was responsible for the end-to-end process of the medicine, he said.

"The Madhya Pradesh government suspended the drug controller and assistant drug controller for negligence in (testing) random samples (of the medicine). We immediately formed an SIT and the police arrested the owner of the pharma company in Tamil Nadu. But the government where these medicines are manufactured should take concrete steps and proper action," Yadav added.

It appears that the medicine given (to children) during the treatment is responsible, which is a manufacturing mistake, the CM said.

When asked about the Congress' criticism in the matter, Yadav said, "If Rahul Gandhi wants, he should go to Tamil Nadu and see for himself and protest against the government there." "Our government will not spare anyone who is responsible (for the deaths) and strict action will be taken against the culprits," he said.

TAINTED COUGH SYRUPS

COLDRIF
- Linked to all the deaths of children who came from Madhya Pradesh. They died of kidney failure, mostly in a government hospital in another state.
- Made by Sresan Pharmaceutical Manufacturer, based in Tamil Nadu.
- Contaminated with 48.6% of toxin diethylene glycol (DEG); the permissible limit by India and the WHO is 0.1%.
- Made in May 2025 and was set to expire in April 2027. The syrup has been banned and the owner of the company arrested.

RESPIFRESH TR
- Not linked to any deaths.
- Made by Rednex Pharmaceuticals, based in Gujarat.
- Contaminated with 1.342% DEG.
- Made in January 2025 and was set to expire in December 2026.
- Syrup recalled and the company ordered to stop production of all medical products.

A ward boy holds a child in his arms as he stands at the gate of the pediatric ICU in Nagpur. REUTERS

RELIFE
- Not linked to any deaths.
- Made by Shape Pharma, based in Gujarat, in January 2025 and was set to expire in December 2026.
- Contaminated with 0.616% DEG.
- Syrup recalled and the company ordered to stop production of all medical products.

Drug regulator launches pan-India audit of makers

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has started a pan-India drive to test, inspect and audit cough syrup manufacturers, official sources said on Thursday.

It has also asked all states and UTs to provide a list of cough syrup manufacturing companies for auditing.

This comes in the wake of children's deaths allegedly due to the consumption of contaminated cough syrups.

Sources further said that no state so far has fully complied with Corrective and Preventive Action guidelines, which have been introduced for ensuring safety and maintaining standards in pharmaceutical products. So far, 18 state drug control authorities have onboarded the Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS), which is aimed at streamlining drug licensing and regulatory compliance.

ONDLS is a digital, single-window platform for processing various drug-related licenses in India and has been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in collaboration with CDSCO.

Coldrif banned in Bengal

The Bengal Chemists and Druggists Association on Thursday directed all retail and wholesale medicine sellers in the state to halt the sale and purchase of the Coldrif cough syrup with immediate effect, an official said.

SC to hear PIL seeking CBI probe

The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Friday a PIL seeking inquiry and systemic reform in drug safety mechanisms in the wake of deaths of children in MP and Rajasthan allegedly due to toxic cough syrups.

Live-ins: UP Guv warns of girls being found in '50 pieces'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel has triggered a huge controversy after she asked girls to stay away from live-in relationships, warning that they might otherwise be found in "50 pieces".

Speaking at the 47th Convocation ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth at Varanasi, Patel said there had been many cases of live-in relationships these days.

"Stay away from live-in relationships... Make decisions about your life carefully... You must have seen girls in 50-50 pieces," she said.

"I have been receiving such news for the past 10 days... Why do our daughters do so? It pains me," said Patel.

The Governor also said she had met girls who were victims of live-in relationships and found that every one of them had a different story to tell.

She referred to her conversation with a judge and said that the latter also expressed concerns over the security of the daughters. "The judge told me that an awareness campaign should be launched in universities so that the girls do not fall prey to live-in relationships," she said.

The Governor also gave gold medals to 101 students during the ceremony.

Barely two days ago, Patel, while speaking at another convocation ceremony at a University in Ballia, said if one visited an orphanage, one could see the consequences of live-in relationships. "Fifteen to 20-year-old girls can be seen standing outside the orphanage carrying one-year-old children," she said.

She also said that girls were taken to hotels, sexually exploited, and abandoned thereafter. "These are not our values, but such things are happening," she said.

Earlier, remarks on live-in relationships by noted Hindu seers Aniruddhacharya and Premananda Maharaj had triggered controversies, with many women activists decrying their statements.

Malayalam film denied censor certificate over 'beef biryani'

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

An upcoming Malayalam film has been denied certification by the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC) due to objections to scenes, including the consumption of beef biryani and a woman in a pardha performing a rap dance, as well as remarks such as 'Dhawaj Pranam'.

Shane Nigam starrer 'Haal' was denied certification and suggested around 15 cuts.

The film producers, JVJ Productions, have approached the Kerala High Court, and the case will be heard on Tuesday.

According to the makers of 'Haal', all sorts of extremism are handled in a sarcastic manner in the film, but the CBFC wanted to cut many scenes and gave only an 'A' certification.

Most of the cuts suggested by the CBFC were not sensible. It even insisted on a consent letter from a bishop's house for a character in the film. Hence, a petition was filed at the court.

Film director Veeraa and writer Nishad Koya strongly objected to the CBFC's objections.

Recently, Union minister Suresh Gopi's starrer film 'Janaki v/s State of Kerala' was also denied certification, citing that the name 'Janaki' could not be allowed as it is another name of Lord Rama's wife Sita and hence it could hurt religious sentiments.

The producers had approached the court, and finally, the film's name was changed to 'Janaki V v/s State of Kerala'.

PM Modi dials Trump, Netanyahu to congratulate on Gaza peace plan

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi called United States President Donald Trump on Thursday and congratulated him on the success of his peace plan to end the conflict in Gaza.

Modi also congratulated Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Spoke to my friend, President Trump, and congratulated him on the success of the historic Gaza peace plan," Modi posted on X after his phone call with Trump.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"On the issues of the Ukraine conflict and Gaza, India supports all efforts to restore peace through dialogue and diplomacy.

Discuss Indo-US trade

Modi said he and Trump also reviewed the "good progress" achieved in the trade negotiations. "Also reviewed the good progress achieved in trade negotiations. Agreed to stay in close touch over the coming weeks."

Apart from Trump's 50% tariff on India's exports to the US and his bonhomie with the civil and military leadership of Pakistan, New Delhi's rebuttals to his repeated claims about brokering its May 10 ceasefire with Islamabad had also added to the stress in its ties with Washington, D.C.

He had earlier in the day taken to the social media platform to welcome the agreement between Israel and Hamas for the first phase of a US-brokered ceasefire framework for the release of all hostages held in Gaza, withdrawal of the Israeli Defence Force to an agreed point and the release of some of the Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. "We welcome the agreement on the first phase of President Trump's peace plan. This is also a reflection of the strong leadership of PM Netanyahu. We hope the release of hostages and enhanced humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza will bring respite to them and pave the way for lasting peace," Modi posted, tagging both the American and Israeli leaders.

After speaking to Netanyahu, Modi posted on social media platform: "We welcome the agreement on the release of hostages and enhanced humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. Reaffirmed that terrorism in any form or manifestation is unacceptable anywhere in the world."

Modi and Trump had a phone call on June 17. Trump had also called Modi on September 17 to wish the PM on his birthday, after the exchange of positive vibes between two countries and the resumption of the stalled negotiations for the trade deal, fuelled speculation about an imminent thaw.

India won't bow to global pressure on trade talks: Union minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday said India would not compromise on its national interest while negotiating with any country on a trade deal.

Addressing the 120th Annual General Meeting of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chouhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made it clear that while India believed in being a "global brother" and was concerned about the world, the country's interest remained the priority.

"Amid volatile geopolitical situations, where nations are fighting with each other, where trade and tariffs are treated as weapons, where nations are ruling the world at their whims... India has to choose its path. We will not come under pressure from anyone. Protecting our country's interests is our duty, and it is necessary for global peace. A responsible country like India should rise," he said.

Chouhan highlighted that 46% of India's population was directly dependent on agriculture for livelihood, making it crucial to strengthen sector.

PM flags Khalistani extremism in meeting with Starmer; urges UK to act

MUMBAI, DHNS/PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday conveyed India's concerns to his British counterpart Keir Starmer, over activities of pro-Khalistani extremists in the UK and said action should be taken against those involved in radicalism and violent extremism.

"The Khalistani extremists....yes, the issue was flagged (by Modi) in July when he visited United Kingdom and held meeting with Starmer...it was discussed in Mumbai again," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Keir Starmer travel in a car to the venue of the Global Fintech Fest 2025, in Mumbai. PTI

"The prime minister emphasised that radicalism and violent extremism had no space in democratic societies, and in particular should not be allowed to abuse the freedoms provided by democratic societies," he said.

Misri said there was a need to move against these elements 'within the legal frameworks'. "The prime minister also expressed his deepest sympathies once again and his condolences at the Manchester attack, the attack that took place against a synagogue a few days ago," Misri said.

To a question on anti-immigration protests in the UK that had also targeted Indians, Misri said the matter will have to be handled by British authorities. "These are issues that have to be addressed by UK authorities. They are a product of the dynamics operating inside the UK, but insofar as the issue of illegal immigration is concerned, it is something that is and has been a subject of discussion between the two countries. It was discussed between the leaders today as well," he said.

The foreign secretary said India does not support illegal immigration and favours cooperation with the UK to tackle it.

BATTLE-READY

Army starts procuring indigenous counter-UAS grid system

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Four months after Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army has begun procuring an indigenous counter-UAS grid system to keep the air littoral, airspace up to 3,000 m above the ground, free from hostile unmanned aerial systems all along the frontier.

Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited, the new systems will ensure complete control on the tactical battlefield space by the ground forces, allowing unrestricted movement of friendly aerial assets while detecting, tracking and neutralising hostile drones or aircraft.

The SAKSHAM (Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard kill Assets Management) system is a high-end modular command and control system that will recognise the unmanned aerial systems of the enemy and carry out threat analysis using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for quick decision-making.

"Every battalion deployed along the border will have these systems. We can't divulge the exact details, but a very large number of these systems are being procured," an official said. Being purchased through a fast-track route, all the field formations are likely to get the counter-UAS system within the next year.

During the Indo-Pak hostilities in May, Indian military establishments on the western front and a few civilian areas were targeted by the Pakistan Army. While all of them were neutralised by the Indian forces, the necessity for a comprehensive counter-UAS framework also emerged from that operation.

Subsequently, the Indian Army evolved its operational concept from its earlier tactical battle area to the more inclusive tactical battlefield space, recognising that future wars would be fought not just on land but also in the airspace, sources said.

It will also receive inputs from the existing Akashteer system to further enhance the situational awareness by mapping every airspace as user-friendly, neutral or hostile within the combat zone.

"Once operational, Saksham will serve as the backbone of the Indian Army's counter-UAS grid, giving commanders a unified picture of both ground and aerial threats. It will ensure rapid engagement and secure control over the air-littoral, protecting troops, infra from aerial incursions," an official said.

Congress slams BJP's 'Manuvadi ideology' over cop's death

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday blamed the BJP's "Manuvadi" ideology for the alleged suicide of a senior Dalit IPS officer, claiming that it has become a "curse" for the SC, ST, OBC and weaker sections.

Kharge said the news of suicide of Haryana Additional DGP Y Puran Kumar was "not only shocking but also a horrific testament to social injustice, inhumanity, and insensitivity" while Rahul claimed that "hatred and Manuvadi ideology" of BJP-RSS have "filled society with venom" and "Dalits, tribals, backward classes, and Muslims" are "gradually losing hope for justice".

Both leaders also referred to the lynching of Hariom Valmiki, a Dalit, in Raebareli and the attempted shoe throwing at Chief Justice of India BR Gavai earlier this month.

In his post on X, Kharge said the "BJP's 'Manuvadi' system has become a curse for the SC, ST, OBC, and weaker sections" and "in the last 11 years, the BJP has so deeply entrenched the 'Manuvadi' mentality in this country that even a Dalit officer of ADGP rank does not receive justice or a fair hearing".

C'garh police registers FIR

CHANDIGARH, PTI: Chandigarh police on Thursday registered an FIR in connection with the 'suicide' case of Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar against accused mentioned in the 'final note' left by the deceased, an official statement said on Thursday night.

A 'final note' had been left behind by Puran, who allegedly shot himself dead at his Chandigarh residence on Tuesday, which named "senior officers" from the state and detailed "mental harassment and humiliation" he allegedly faced over the past few years, according to sources.

"An FIR under Section 108 rw 3(5) (abetment of suicide) and 3 (1) (r) POA (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, has been registered against the accused mentioned in the final note," Chandigarh police said in a statement.

SC directs Bihar legal service to assist 3.66 lakh excluded voters

Refuses to pass blanket order on exclusions, inclusions

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Bihar State Legal Service Authority to issue directions to its district-level bodies to help 3.66 lakh voters, excluded from the final electoral rolls, file appeals with the Election Commission (EC).

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymlaya Bagchi refused to pass any blanket order on the exclusions and inclusions in the voter list.

The court said the district legal service authority would release a list of paralegal volunteers to assist the excluded voters by filing appeals and ensuring that they had detailed orders of their name's rejection.

The court found "too much passion and little reason" in the arguments of petitioners challenging the special intensive revision (SIR) of the voter list before the Bihar Assembly elections.

SUPREME COURT

"We want everyone to be given a fair chance to appeal and they should have detailed orders with them on why their names have been excluded. It should not be a one-line cryptic order.

The bench cited the absence of appeals by people allegedly wrongfully struck off from the electoral rolls. The court pointed out that there were discrepancies in the affidavits submitted before it by certain individuals who claimed to have been wrongly excluded from the voter list.

The bench said that it expected political parties to come out with their grievances regarding the SIR after they were impleaded in the matter, but they appeared to be satisfied.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, representing the EC, pointed out that the petitioner NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), had given fake details of a person who claimed his name had been excluded from the final list.

The EC's counsel said the name did not feature in the draft rolls and the details he had given were of some woman. "We wonder if such a person even exists," the bench said, after examining the EC's response.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, stressed that the details had been given to him by a very responsible person, and the name of the elector could be ascertained by the district legal service authority.

Dwivedi said the NGO must satisfy itself with the affidavit before bringing it to the court's attention, and the NGO and another petitioner, Yogendra Yadav, had filed their affidavits till late afternoon, and his client needed to file its response.

Bhushan said the court might ask the legal services authority to inquire into it and give a report.

Palaniswami 'hints' at alliance; Vijay's camp says no

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has hinted that actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) might be the latest entrant into the party-led alliance for the 2026 polls. At a public rally in Komarapalayam in Namakkal district on Wednesday night, EPS was visibly happy to see the TVK's yellow-maroon flags in the crowd, and said this was the beginning.

"The AIADMK will stitch together a formidable alliance for the 2026 elections. Look there. Look at those flags flying; they have put 'pillayar suzhi' (initiated the move)," he said. This was the second time in a week that TVK flags were waved at EPS' public meetings, which the AIADMK inferred as a signal that Vijay's fans wanted an alliance with it.

"Mr Stalin, listen to the roar of the people of Komarapalayam, it will pierce your ears. Your dream of coming back to power will be shattered. Listen to the people," said Palaniswami.

The AIADMK, post the stampede at Vijay's public rally in Karur, has been quite vocal in supporting the actor and criticising the DMK government, sensing an opportunity to reassert that only the two Dravidian majors were competent to compete with each other.

Palaniswami publicly supported Vijay, saying it was unfair to question his absence among the stampede victims, as no one knew what he was experiencing. In fact, the AIADMK has been inviting Vijay to join the alliance to put up a spirited fight against the DMK. EPS' latest comments also come amid speculation that he invited Vijay in a phone conversation to join the alliance.

The AIADMK and BJP have been courting Vijay as he is expected to corner a chunk of the anti-DMK votes.

While the TVK didn't publicly react to EPS' comments, party sources told *DH* that the AIADMK general secretary was utilising the silence in the actor's camp to his advantage.

"We don't want to keep commenting on other political parties' leaders' statements. We are clear that we don't want to ally with any major party for the 2026 polls. Anyway, elections are seven months away," a top source told *DH*.

EC warns against misuse of AI during Bihar polls

Says such actions compromise poll process integrity

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Election Commission on Thursday urged parties not to misuse Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to create deepfakes that distort information or propagate misinformation on social media, saying such actions compromise the integrity of the electoral process during the Bihar polls.

BIHAR VOTES

It also directed parties, leaders, and candidates to clearly label AI-generated or synthetic content shared during campaigning on social media or in advertisements as 'AI-Generated', 'Digitally Enhanced', or 'Synthetic Content'. Similar instructions were issued earlier.

In a statement, the EC noted that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), now in force in Bihar, applies to content posted on the internet, including social media, by candidates and parties.

The commission stressed that criticism of opponents should be confined to their policies, programmes, past record, and work. Parties and candidates must refrain from criticising aspects of private life unrelated to the public activities of leaders or workers of other parties.

The EC further advised that criticism based on unverified allegations or distortions must be avoided and emphasised the importance of refraining from using AI-based tools to create deepfakes for campaigning, highlighting the need to uphold the integrity of electoral process.

Strict monitoring of social media posts is being maintained to ensure that the election atmosphere is not vitiated, and elaborate arrangements are in place to ensure effective implementation of the MCC. Any violation of these guidelines will be dealt with strictly, the poll body added.

Tejashwi's big poll promise: Govt job for every family

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Thursday announced that if voted to power, he would bring in legislation within 20 days of assuming power to ensure one government job to every family in the state.

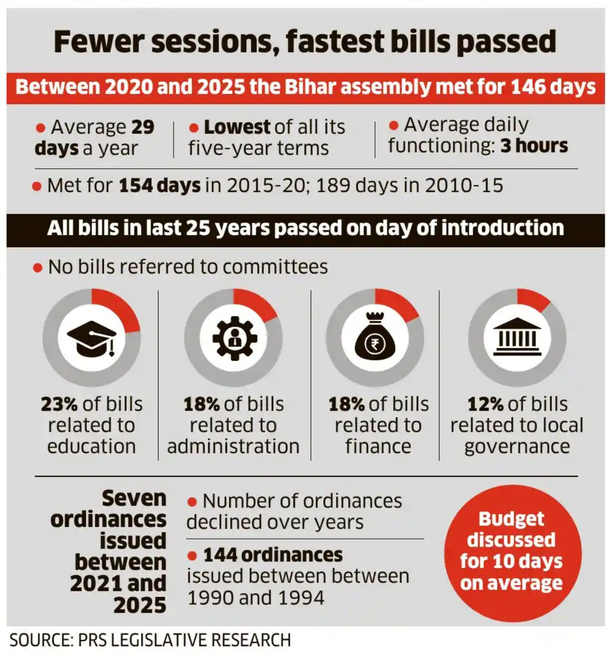
"There will be no home without a government job," asserted the former deputy chief minister, adding that he had promised jobs to the unemployed in the run-up to the 2020 Assembly elections as well.

"And when I became the deputy chief minister from August 2022 to January 2024, I ensured 5 lakh people got jobs in Bihar in different government departments. Imagine how many jobs would have been provided had I been given a chance to govern for five years," said the RJD scion, who is also the undeclared CM candidate of the Mahagathbandhan — an alliance that consists of the RJD, the Congress, and the Left parties.

"Any family in Bihar that does not have a government job will get one through the new legislation. Within 20 days of assuming power, we will ensure this legislation is brought in. And within 20 months, we will ensure that there is not a single home in Bihar that does not have a government job," asserted Tejashwi.

The announcement is significant in the sense that it could be a game-changer and have wide repercussions in the upcoming elections.

"Trust me. This is Tejashwi Yadav making you a pledge. This is no "jumlebaazi" (false promise). Our men have studied this concept. This goal can be achieved through a strong will power. I will ensure you economic justice, besides social justice," said Tejashwi, dwelling at length on how current CM Nitish Kumar copied his earlier announcements and doled out several sops from hike in old-age pension to free electricity for up to 125 units of power consumption.


Fewer sessions, fastest bills passed
Between 2020 and 2025 the Bihar assembly met for 146 days
Average 29 days a year
Lowest of all its five-year terms
Average daily functioning: 3 hours
Met for 154 days in 2015-20; 189 days in 2010-15
All bills in last 25 years passed on day of introduction
No bills referred to committees
23% of bills related to education
18% of bills related to administration
18% of bills related to finance
12% of bills related to local governance
Seven ordinances issued between 2021 and 2025
Number of ordinances declined over years
144 ordinances issued between between 1990 and 1994
Budget discussed for 10 days on average

SOURCE: PRS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

Academics, singer in Prashant Kishor's first list

PATNA: Jan Suraaj, led bypoll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor, released its list of 51 candidates on Thursday who will contest the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

However, the suspense continues over Prashant's candidature as his name did not feature in the first list.

Former MP and party national president Uday Singh released the names of 51 candidates, including academics, singers, and doctors.

Of the 51 candidates named, 11 belong to backward classes, 17 to extremely backward classes, nine are from minority communities and the rest from the general category, Uday said.

The list includes Pritti Kinnar from the transgender community, who will contest from the Bhorey seat in Gopalganj. Currently, Sunil Kumar, an IPS officer-turned-JD(U) MLA, represents the seat and serves as the state Education Minister.

Bhojpuri singer Ritesh Ranjan Pandey will also enter the poll fray from the Kargahar seat, while mathematician KC Sinha will contest from the Kumhrar seat in Patna.

Granddaughter of former chief minister Karpoori Thakur, Jagriti Thakur, also secured a ticket from the Morwa assembly seat in Samastipur.

"PK will launch his election campaign from Raghopur, the Assembly constituency of former Deputy Chief Minister and the Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav, from October 11," said former union minister RCP Singh, who has joined Jan Suraaj after falling out of favour with JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar.

Singh added that the names of the remaining candidates will be released in the next three days.

Telangana HC stays 42% BC reservation in local bodies

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Telangana High Court on Thursday issued an interim order staying a government order that provided 42% reservation to Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies.

Following the court order, the Telangana State Election Commission issued a statement saying the poll notification issued on September 29 and further activities are being suspended until further notification.

A division bench, after hearing a batch of petitions over two days challenging the state government's order raising the BC quota, directed the government to submit its reply within four weeks.

"Four weeks is allowed for the state government to file a counter affidavit. Petitioners are allowed two weeks thereafter to file a reply, if so advised. In the meantime, there shall be an interim stay of the impugned notification," the Chief Justice stated.

GO No 9, which sought to implement 42% reservation for BCs in both rural and urban local bodies, was challenged by Buttembare Madhav Reddy and Samudrala Ramesh.

They argued the move breached the 50% ceiling on total reservations, as laid down by top court.

Supporting the government's stance, BC leaders, including Rajya Sabha member R Krishnaiah and V Hanumanth Rao filed implead petitions, justifying the quota.

Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao said the Congress must take full responsibility for the High Court stay on the GO. The stay resulted from the Congress government's negligence and lack of sincerity.

'Flop show': BJP on Rahul's campaign against SIR

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Thursday said not a single appeal filed by the RJD and Congress in Bihar against the electoral rolls released by the Election Commission has shown that Rahul Gandhi's 'vote chori' charge and campaign against SIR have turned out to be a flop show.

Party spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said the issue has not managed to win the confidence of either the RJD or the Bihar Congress unit.

"The Supreme Court and the Madras High Court had earlier dismissed a PIL stating that Rahul Gandhi's allegations were false and baseless, and now even the booth-level agents of the RJD and Congress in Bihar are saying the same," Bhandari said.

Bhandari also questioned Gandhi's intent. "When Rahul Gandhi knew that his entire propaganda was false, what kind of pressure or power was driving him? Was it some foreign remote control under whose influence Rahul Gandhi was accusing the poor people of Bihar of vote theft," he asked.

Key accused in BSP leader murder case dies in Chennai

CHENNAI, PTI: A life convict in a murder case, and also the prime accused in the murder of former Tamil Nadu BSP president K Armstrong, died due to health complications at the Stanley Government Hospital here on Thursday, police said.

Nagendran, 65, was admitted to the GH in July this year following complaints of severe stomach pain. His health deteriorated, and he passed away today, police said.

Nagendran has been serving a life sentence since 2001 for the murder of AIADMK functionary Stanley Shanmugam. He was the prime accused in the Armstrong murder case in July last year.

'No respect from current leadership': Assam BJP leader Rajen Gohain quits party

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Days after its setback in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) polls, the ruling BJP in Assam suffered another blow on Thursday when Rajen Gohain, a former Union Minister and the party's torchbearer during the Vajpayee–Advani era, resigned, citing "no respect" from the current leadership.

The resignation comes months ahead of the Assembly elections.

Gohain, 74, who joined the BJP in 1991, served as the party's state president and represented the Nagaon constituency in the Lok Sabha four times between 1999 and 2014, when the saffron party was still struggling to gain ground in state politics.

"That was a time when the party leadership reposed faith in its workers and showed respect. Now the leadership has changed, and so has the party's attitude towards people like us. So finally, I decided to quit instead of remaining in the party as waste," a visibly emotional Gohain told reporters after submitting his resignation to state president Dilip Saikia.

Gohain accused the party of taking an "anti-Assamese stance", claiming that his suggestions to review the delimitation exercise were ignored.

According to him, the move divided the influential Ahom community, weakening their political influence across several constituencies.

"Ahoms are the largest indigenous community in Assam, dominating the outcome in 30 to 40 Assembly seats. But the delimitation has reduced their strength," Gohain said.

Although Gohain has not announced his next political move, sources said he is likely to join the Asom Jatiya Parishad, an anti-CAA opposition party led by Lurinjyoti Gogoi, who also belongs to the Ahom community.

On comeback trail: Mayawati attacks SP, Congress in massive rally

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Battling to remain relevant in Uttar Pradesh's electoral politics, BSP chief Mayawati on Thursday addressed a massive rally of party supporters on BSP founder Kanshi Ram's death anniversary here. In it, she launched a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Congress, and firebrand Dalit leader Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan.

However, she appeared to soften her stance on the BJP, even as she made it clear that her party would contest the next Assembly polls in UP, due in 2027, independently. She also appeared confident that her party would return to power on its own, saying: "Alliance cost us dearly in the past."

Mayawati, flanked by nephew Akash Anand and other senior leaders, also demanded elections through ballot papers and claimed that a conspiracy was being hatched to dent her party's core vote bank: Dalits.

The BSP supremo also announced the appointment of Akash as the party's national vice-president at the rally, billed as a show of strength, indicating that he might be her "political heir".

BSP chief Mayawati during an event on party founder Kanshi Ram's death anniversary, in Lucknow, on Thursday. PTI

Mayawati lashed out at SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, without naming him, saying the party was trying to fool the people by its "PDA" (Pichda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak, or backwards, Dalits, and minorities) formula. "The SP never remembered Kanshi Ram when it was in power," she said, adding that the SP regime also never allocated any funds to maintain the memorials Kanshi Ram built.

She heaped praise on the Yogi Adityanath government for renovating the memorials using the money collected from the entry fees, at her request. "We are grateful for it," she said.

Apparently referring to firebrand Dalit leader Chandrashekhar, Mayawati asked her supporters not to be misled by such leaders, who she claimed were hand-in-glove with the other parties.

The BSP leader also attacked the Congress for "disrespecting" Dalit icon B R Ambedkar, claiming that the grand old party did not allow him to become a member of the Parliament, nor was he awarded Bharat Ratna. "They are now doing drama in the name of the Constitution," she said.

She termed as "rumours" the possible entry of the senior SP leader Azam Khan into her party.

Afghan foreign minister Muttaqi arrives in Delhi

NEW DELHI, PTI: Afghan foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi landed in the national capital on Thursday, in the first high-level trip from Kabul after the Taliban seized power following the collapse of the Ashraf Ghani government over four years ago.

Muttaqi will hold extensive talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval during his six-day trip to India, people familiar with the matter said.

"Warm welcome to Afghan Foreign Minister, Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi on his arrival in New Delhi," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media.

"We look forward to engaging discussions with him on bilateral relations and regional issues," he said.

The Afghan foreign minister was scheduled to visit New Delhi last month but it was called off in view of a travel ban that he faced under UNSC sanctions.

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SIR revised: A trial of errors

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls taken up in Bihar by the Election Commission of India (ECI) is drawing adverse attention even after the announcement of the poll schedule. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar's claim that the rolls have been "purified" has been challenged on several grounds. Judicial scrutiny of the exercise has continued, and the Supreme Court has told the Commission to provide details of the 3.66 lakh voters excluded from the final rolls published on September 30. The figures provided by the ECI have given rise to skepticism and criticism. Since the Commission launched the exercise, the number of voters came down from 7.89 crore to 7.24 crore in the draft list, which was issued on August 1. As many as 65 lakh voters were removed on grounds of death, migration, and duplication. The final list has 7.42 crore voters, which marks an increase of 17.87 lakh after the additions and deletions.

The Court observed that the additions and deletions caused confusion and asked the Commission whether the newly added voters were from among the 65 lakh names deleted earlier or freshly added. There are charges that the final list contains many suspected duplicate voters and names with fictitious addresses. According to reports, the representation of women and Muslims has fallen. The Court has asked the Bihar State Legal Service Authority (BSLSA) to assist voters excluded from the final rolls in filing appeals with the Commission. It has directed the authority to engage its district-level bodies in the process and is set to take up these appeals at the next hearing, indicating that it does not consider the list as final.

Judicial scrutiny of the contentious revision continues, weeks ahead of a crucial, high-stakes election

All claims and apprehensions regarding the exercise may not be valid, as the Court has found in one case. However, there are questions the ECI has to answer. The reasons for exclusion of voters from the final list are yet to be made clear in all the cases. The Commission has not revealed the number of illegal immigrants whose names were struck off the rolls. The CEC did not answer the question posed in this connection. Charges of poor implementation and systemic and procedural gaps remain unaddressed. SIR has been plagued by a striking lack of transparency, which is at the centre of criticism directed at the exercise. With the stage set for what is projected to be a close electoral battle in a key state, errors and exclusions in the rolls could turn out to be significant and contentious.

Pulses and the push for self-reliance

The Union Cabinet's approval of a six-year central scheme called Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses is a step towards self-sufficiency in an important area of food consumption. The mission, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman in this year's budget, is being given a concrete plan with a financial outlay of Rs 11,440 crore. It will focus on increasing production of *tur* (pigeon pea), *urad* (black gram), and *masur* (lentil) with assured procurement by government agencies. It has a target of increasing pulses production to 350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31 from 242 lakh tonnes in 2023-24. It also proposes to increase the cultivation area to 310 lakh hectares from 242 lakh hectares, and the yield to 1,130 kg per hectare from 881 kg per hectare.

India is the largest producer of pulses in the world, but it is also the largest importer. Though the country accounts for 27.4% of the global production, it imported 7.3 million tonnes of pulses last year. The imports accounted for almost 18% of the domestic consumption – this necessitates an increase in production. Both production and productivity have lagged because pulses are grown on marginal lands with little irrigation or fertiliser use. It has the lowest yield among the top 10 producers, at just 0.74 tonne per hectare. India could be almost self-sufficient in pulses if it achieves the global average yield. Structural limitations related to irrigation, climate, etc., need to be addressed to augment production.

New mission promotes expanded cultivation and assured procurement, while addressing storage gaps

Increasing the acreage through the use of rice-fallow lands and intercropping pulses with sugarcane are among the ideas to be pursued by the mission, which will be implemented on a cluster-based model in 416 targeted districts. It also plans to prioritise research, seed development, and development of climate-resilient varieties. The initial plan is to distribute 12.6 million quintals of certified seeds and 8.8 million free seed kits to farmers and bring an additional 35 lakh hectares under cultivation. This expansion of cultivation and assured procurement of the main varieties of pulses is expected to incentivise farmers to shift from paddy to pulses. Challenges such as post-harvest losses and inadequate storage remain. These issues must be prioritised because pulses are difficult to store. The mission plans to set up 1,000 processing and packaging units to address these concerns. An ambitious plan has been set in motion for a pulse revolution in the country. It will need strong internal processes to tackle challenges in implementation, which are a given for a programme of this scale.

LOST IN ENFORCEMENT

RTI at 20: Reform in need of a lifeline

Red tape and political interests have left the institution in decay. Reclaiming it will be critical for India's democracy

K S TOMAR

When the Right to Information (RTI) Act was enacted in 2005, India took a historic step towards democratic accountability. Emerging from a grassroots movement led by Aruna Roy and the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), the law declared transparency a citizen's right, not a privilege. For a while, it worked. Public Information Officers were compelled to release long-hidden records, commissions acted as independent tribunals, and corruption was exposed across sectors. For millions, the RTI became a cheap, quick, and effective weapon.

Two decades later, that optimism has dimmed. The "sunshine legislation" now lies battered by neglect and manipulation. As of June 30, 2024, over 4.05 lakh appeals and complaints were pending across 29 information commissions. Maharashtra led with 1.08 lakh cases. In several states, commissions have remained headless for years, their disposal rates so slow they would take decades to clear the backlog – a mockery of the 30-day limit prescribed by law.

Independent surveys confirm the dysfunction. Seven commissions were defunct for extended periods, and many returned 40% of appeals without hearings, often citing minor procedural lapses. Penalties were imposed in less than 5% of proven violations, and some commissions would need over 24 years to clear current backlogs. Annual report cards on RTI implementation show that proactive disclosures are ignored by most departments, revealing administrative decay and official indifference to transparency.

This collapse is both bureaucratic and political. Vacancies persist in the Central Information Commission, while states starve their commissions of staff and funds. States such as Jharkhand, Tripura, Telangana, and Goa have at times had no commissioners, leaving citizens without an appellate authority.

At the operational level, Public Information Officers routinely ignore or delay responses. Many fail even to acknowledge applications within 30 days, and those who reply often provide incomplete or evasive information. Though commissions can penalise errant officials, this power is rarely used.

Legal and administrative changes have blunted the law's edge. Amendments and judicial interpretations have widened exemptions under vague terms like "personal information" and "national security". The 2019 amendment empowered the government to fix commissioners' tenure and salaries, compromising autonomy. The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act further blurs the line between privacy

and public interest, allowing authorities to withhold data in the name of confidentiality.

Administrative incapacity worsens the rot. Many departments still rely on manual record-keeping; digital platforms are patchy and outdated. PIOs cite overwork and lack of training – excuses that underline systemic apathy. Even mandatory annual reports assessing RTI performance are often unpublished.

The human cost is grim. More than 70 RTI activists have been killed since 2005, and many more threatened or attacked. Their courage, while exposing corruption, has also provoked violent retaliation.

At its core, the decline reflects the discomfort of the political class with accountability. Governments at both the Centre and state levels prefer opacity because information threatens patronage networks and exposes misuse of funds. When transparency begins to bite, the instinct is to blunt it. Political convenience, not public interest, shapes their approach.

Promise and takeaways

The judiciary's record is uneven. Some courts uphold disclosure, but others broaden exemptions. Appeals are often dismissed on trivial technicalities like a missing signature, forcing citizens to restart the process. The RTI, meant to empower, now exhausts ordinary applicants. The deepening crisis has drawn warnings from former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B. Lokur, who cautioned that at the current pace of neglect, the RTI could face "virtual extinction within five or six years."

What once empowered citizens to expose corruption now frustrates them with red tape. Instead of cleansing governance, the RTI has been reduced to a bureaucratic ritual – an illusion of openness without substance. This decay represents not just the death of a law but the betrayal of a democratic ethic that values the citizen's right to know.

In contrast, democracies such as the United States and the United Kingdom nurture stronger information regimes. The UK's Freedom of Information Act, enforced by an independent Information Commissioner's Office, mandates strict timelines and proactive publication. The US Freedom of Information Act binds federal agencies to release records within fixed deadlines, subject to minimal exemptions.

Yet, all is not lost. The spirit that birthed the RTI still flickers. Grassroots groups continue to use it to monitor ration shops, panchayat spending, and welfare schemes. Some courts have reaffirmed the citizen's right to know, and online portals have widened access.

Appointments to information commissions must be transparent, timebound, and insulated from executive interference. Penalty provisions need rigorous enforcement; proactive disclosure under Section 4 must be ensured; and attacks on RTI users should be addressed with a fast-tracked, dedicated mechanism.

Twenty years after its birth, the law faces uncertain times. It is ironic that the State which enacted the law now presides over its decay. The RTI Act began as a beacon of hope, promising to cleanse governance. Bureaucratic gaps and political expediency have derailed the promise. Yet, even a flicker can be revived. To restore it will not merely mean defending a statute; it will be about reclaiming democracy's most essential truth: that citizens have the right to know what is done in their name.

(The writer is a senior political analyst and strategic affairs columnist based in Shimla)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

When *dosa* and *dal* crossed paths

India's unity in diversity now extends to the dinner table

SHYAMALA MANI IYER

That India is a land of unity in diversity is something every school-going child knows. But how much unity exists in this diversity, especially in the matter of food, is something I recently found out.

A group of us were travelling to the little town of Umarkot in Odisha's Nabarangpur district. Umarkot is on the Chhattisgarh side of Odisha, and the nearest railway station or airport is Raipur. We landed at Raipur and set out on our five-hour drive through the Adivasi belt of Chhattisgarh.

Our route took us through Dhamtari – the famous rice belt of Chhattisgarh. Whizzing through green paddy fields, we halted at a small wayside restaurant at Dhamtari for breakfast. Naturally we expected to be served wholesome, authentic Chhattisgarh food. But lo and behold! We were offered *masala dosa, idli-sambhar* and *vada-sambhar*! We were absolutely dismayed and informed the waiter that we did not want South Indian food in the north and asked him to serve local food. He protested, "But this is what everyone prefers here!" And we really observed that mostly everyone who arrived at the restaurant ordered one of these items.

After a lot of discussion, he finally agreed to serve us *roti* and *sabzi*. The *karela sabzi* and *baigan sabzi* he then freshly prepared specially for us and served were delicious. When we enquired, he informed us that the vegetables were fresh from the *khethi* nearby. No wonder it tasted so good!

On another occasion we were travelling by road from Bengaluru to Coimbatore. The driver took a roundabout route thanks to (mis)guidance by Google, and so we missed all the regular restaurants on that route. We entered a small town in Tamil Nadu and couldn't locate any place to eat. It was getting late, and we were truly famished. Some good samaritan informed us that there was a restaurant in one of the inner roads. After a lot of inquiry, we located the restaurant. Once again, we were hoping for good South Indian food.

However, what we were offered was *roti, dal makhani, shahi paneer, kadhai paneer*, et al. And the typical North Indian meal was excellently prepared by the chef and his assistants, who were all North Indians!

When the *salwar-kameez* was introduced, it caught the imagination of girls all over India, and the result is that from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Rajasthan to the Northeast, you can find girls even in the remotest villages wearing this extremely comfortable dress. It's no longer a 'Punjabi dress' as it was earlier known.

The same goes for Bollywood tunes. You can hear them everywhere, either in the original or locally adapted versions.

I realised that some Indian food items have joined the ranks of the 'unity in diversity' list and have become universal, like the *dosa, vada, idli-sambhar, chole batura, dal makhani,* and *kadhai paneer*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Empty speeches, token gestures

The suggestion to rename 'Namma Metro' to 'Basava Metro' is unnecessary and misplaced. The name 'Namma Metro' carries a unique local identity rooted in Bengaluru's spirit. If the CM truly wished to honour Basavanna, he could have chosen more meaningful ways to do so. The real issue runs deeper. Our political leaders, regardless of party, have consistently shown selective reverence. When it comes to naming universities, roads, or public institutions after Karnataka's own stalwarts, the CM instead rushes to appease his party's high command by naming them after its own leaders. Even the BJP has glorified its own party leaders while ignoring Karnataka's achievers. Karnataka's culture and legacy deserve better than token gestures and empty speeches.

Kalyana Raman Chandrasekaran, Bengaluru

Commendable

Apropos 'In court, an ugly show of intolerance' (Oct 9), the CJI's calm demeanour after the recent courtroom incident is commendable. By choosing not to press charges against the offender, he upheld the dignity of his office and reflected the values of tolerance and natural justice. His conduct serves as a reminder to citizens to stand against unjust practices.

Albert Smith, Bengaluru

Stronger laws needed

Apropos 'Cough syrup deaths: TN factory sealed' (October 9), it's appalling that medical negligence has claimed lives. The facility producing contaminated cough syrup must be held accountable. Stronger regulations are necessary, especially considering the syrup contained 48.6% diethylene glycol. The State Drug Control Department's decision to shut down the facility is commendable.

Neil Steven, Bengaluru

Quality standards

I refer to 'Cough syrup deaths: Drug regulator alerts states on firms flouting rules' (Oct 9). It is distressing that cough syrups have claimed lives. India must wake up to the menace of spurious drug-makers and enforce strict quality and safety regulations. Public awareness campaigns about unsupervised drug administration are also essential.

Pearl Preticia A S, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The BJP is playing with fire in the name of the SIR of electoral rolls. Tampering with the voters' list amounts to betrayal of democracy.
Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal CM

Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule — and both commonly succeed, and are right.
H L Mencken

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Why India buys more than it sells

Import-heavy consumption is widening the trade deficit. India must urgently embrace sustainable self-reliance

JADHAV CHAKRADHAR

As India strides toward its ambitious goal of becoming a $5-trillion economy by 2027, one stubborn shadow looms large: our chronic trade deficit. In August, the merchandise trade gap narrowed to $26.5 billion, a welcome dip from the previous month's $27.4 billion, thanks to a 6.7% surge in exports to $35.1 billion. Yet, this fleeting relief masks a deeper malaise. Imports, clocking in at $61.6 billion that month, continue to outpace our outbound shipments, draining foreign exchange reserves and pressuring the rupee. The culprit? Not just global headwinds or geopolitical tensions or even President Trump's tariffs, but our own evolving consumption patterns.

India's affinity for foreign gadgets, baubles, and industrial raw materials has kept the import tap wide open. A burgeoning middle class, now numbering over 400 million, has kept this surge alive in India's malls and e-commerce sites. This isn't mere indulgence; it signals a seismic shift in lifestyle. Over the past decade, India's imports have ballooned by 7% annually, from $450 billion in 2013-14 to a staggering $716 billion in 2022-23, fuelled precisely by this domestic demand. Electrical machinery and equipment, including consumer electronics, rank as the second-largest import category in 2025, trailing only petroleum fuels. We're not just buying convenience; we're outsourcing our economic sovereignty.

But it's not all about bling and bytes. India's industrial engine, revving toward self-reliance under the banner of 'Make in India', guzzles raw materials from abroad like there's no tomorrow. Crude oil and petroleum products top the import charts. They account for nearly a quarter of our total inflows annually, by conservative estimates. Why? Our refineries and factories depend on this black gold to power everything from our SUVs to the steel girders of our gleaming skyscrapers. Add to that gems and precious metals, and machinery for the assembly lines that still prioritise cheap foreign parts over homegrown innovation.

Critics might argue that trade deficits are a badge of a growing economy – after all, even the United States, the world's largest importer, thrives on them. But for India, with its fragile balance of payments and a current account deficit that hovers around 2% of GDP, this is no luxury we can afford. Each billion-dollar shortfall erodes investor confidence, inflates import costs, and diverts resources from investments in critical sectors such as education and infrastructure. Worse, it perpetuates a vicious cycle: A weaker rupee makes those foreign oils and gadgets even pricier, squeezing household budgets and slowing domestic consumption further. Recent data shows domestic spending already softening due to stagnant wages and inflation, yet our import reliance shows no signs of abating.

Looking inward

The root lies in our consumption DNA. Urban India's love affair with global brands isn't accidental; it's engineered by aggressive marketing and a colonial hangover that equates "foreign" with "superior". Meanwhile, industries cite "cost efficiencies" for sourcing raw materials overseas, ignoring the long-term toll on local suppliers. China's shadow looms here too – our imports from Beijing alone swelled to $126.96 billion in 2024, dominated by electronics and chemicals, ballooning the bilateral deficit to nearly $100 billion.

So, how do we break free? First, we must recalibrate our consumption. It is time to launch a national "buy local, build strong" campaign. This should go beyond slogans and come with teeth: Tax breaks for domestic electronics and luxury imports, coupled with subsidies for indigenous brands. Second, we must fast-track our raw material security. There is a need to accelerate green energy transitions – solar and wind could slash oil imports by 20% in five years – while investing in domestic mining for critical minerals. Third, exports need to be supercharged by targeting high-value niches. Pharma, IT services, and organic textiles already shine, but we must diversify beyond gems and textiles to match our import diversity.

India's story is not one of deficit doom but of untapped potential. Our services surplus proves that we're world-beaters when we play to our strengths. Yet, until we tame our import beast through mindful consumption and bold policy, the trade imbalance will remain a millstone around our neck. It is time for the policymakers to lead by example. *Swadeshi* cannot be a mere punchline; it must be an informed strategy. The middle class and its patterns of consumption will be integral to this transformational shift. In a world of finite resources, sustainable consumption isn't optional; it's our economic lifeline. It is time to consume smarter, not harder.

(The writer is an assistant professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies [CESS], Hyderabad)

To protect fertile land, Karnataka needs an equitable land use policy

KATHYAYINI CHAMARAJ

With farmers of Devanahalli, Bidadi, and several other districts protesting against land acquisition for industrial projects, concerns over the impact of such projects on Karnataka's food and nutrition security have grown serious. For instance, the districts surrounding Bengaluru supply about 60% of the city's fruits and vegetables -- an estimated seven to eight million tonnes annually -- while local dairies deliver over 10 million litres of milk every day. The logic of displacing happy and well-settled farmers when lakhs of acres of wasteland remain unused raises troubling questions about a Bengaluru-centric development model.

A recent brainstorming session by the Karnataka Forum of Public Intellectuals and Cultural Voices brought together affected farmers from several districts, corporate and MSME representatives, thinkers and academicians to discuss an "Equitable Industrial Land Use Policy for Karnataka". The meeting, held significantly on the birth anniversary of Devaraj Urs—who had spearheaded the land reforms in the state—was convened by Prakash Kammardi, former chairman of the Karnataka Agricultural Prices Commission.

Participants stressed the need to think "Beyond Bengaluru", for active District Planning Committees, to set up industries in Kalyana Karnataka and to emulate Telangana's example of allocating only wastelands for industry. A major recommendation was to 'reserve' fertile agricultural land as "Food Security and Green Economy Zones", similar to reserve forests, to prevent their diversion for non-agricultural purposes.

With BMRDA's Structure Plan having already fixed the water carrying capacity as the limiting factor for further expansion of Bengaluru --and ground water levels continuing to fall – participants called for a freeze on the city's sprawl.

They also demanded that every proposed land acquisition undergo a cost-benefit analysis, taking into account the environmental and social impact assessments – the cost of compensation and rehabilitation, livelihoods lost versus those created, loss of agricultural output affecting food security, and implications for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Only projects that meet these criteria, they said, should be sanctioned.

A major concern was the lack of transparency and accountability within the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB). The KIADB Act itself prohibits it from acquiring fertile agricultural land for industrial purposes. Under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the informed consent of at least 80% of affected landowners is mandatory for acquisition. Yet, according to KIADB's own 2022 survey, over 80% of farmers are unwilling to part with their land.

Speakers insisted that all land acquisitions must comply with the 2013 Act. They condemned the misuse of provisions under other laws-- such as the BDA Act – for projects like the Peripheral Ring Road, where notifications were issued decades ago, freezing farmers' land use and sales rights. Compensation, they argued, must be based on the land's current market value at the time of development. Some suggested that displaced farmers should be made shareholders in the industries taking over their land.

Participants questioned why the KIADB was behaving more like a real estate agent than a promoter of industry. In several cases, land within industrial complexes was being diverted for private clubs and boathouses. Agents profited from land deals while several large companies left allotted plots unused, with no follow-up audits or penalties. Unused industrial land, they argued, should either be reacquired for public use or returned to the original farmers, instead of being freely resold.

Equally puzzling, they said, was KIADB's acquisition of land for airports -- well outside its industrial mandate. Speakers questioned the 'madness' of building new airports when existing ones, such as in Shivamogga, have turned dysfunctional. Several victims movingly recounted how they had lost their land to such projects, spent years fighting legal battles, and ended up empty-handed after paying agents and lawyers.

The imbalance between land allotted and employment generated was another key issue. One major IT company had received 300 acres but provided only 20,000 jobs – whereas experts estimated that 30 acres would have sufficed. In contrast, an MSME functioning on just 45 acres of land had created thousands of jobs. Participants urged the government to prioritise land allocation to MSMEs, which generate far more employment per acre than big industries.

The five chief demands emanating from the brainstorming were:

1) A comprehensive land use and acquisition policy should be framed within a set timeframe after wide consultation with all stakeholders.

2) A white paper must be published on all land acquired so far by KIADB and other agencies, detailing its utilisation and employment outcomes.

3) No new land acquisition should be undertaken until the white paper is published.

4) The disastrous amendments to the Land Reforms Act introduced by the previous government should be rescinded, as promised.

5) Priority should be given to using wastelands for industries while allocating land to the landless and homeless for education and health.

These final recommendations from the brainstorming were formally submitted to the CM on September 22 for consideration and action.

(The writer is the Executive Trustee of CIVIC-Bangalore)

Young people in Nepal rose up against corruption and inequality. But they say they did not expect the bloodshed, arson, and government downfall that followed

HANNAH BEECH

Young people light candles to pay tribute to Gen Z protesters killed by the security forces in Kathmandu, Nepal. Interviews with dozens of young Nepalis make clear that an abrupt and violent change was not what many had envisioned. FILEPHOTO/NYT

How a Gen Z revolution spiralled out of control

It was not supposed to be a revolution. Really, it wasn't. The young Nepalis all chafed at the government's abrupt ban on social media. They all wanted an end to corruption in a country where families of communist, Maoist and social democrat leaders alike paraded their wealth while the rest of the population seemed to slide into hopelessness.

But a wholesale change in government? Security forces shooting dead at least 19 protesters, including students in school uniforms? The coordinated burning and looting that in a few hours robbed a nation of the physical manifestations of a state — majestic government buildings, police stations and ward offices — all in smouldering ruins, along with hundreds of homes and businesses connected to the political elite?

In a handful of days in September, Tanuja, Misan and Mahesh, Sudan, Rakshya and Dipendra would find their lives transformed. One would be elevated as a leader of the Generation Z movement, even though he was a millennial a decade or more older than the others. Another would watch the protest she helped organise devolve into unrecognisable chaos. All would be hunted. Two would be shot. One would die.

Across the world, Nepal's youth have been celebrated as spearheads of a Gen Z revolution, the first to so rapidly turn online outrage at "nepo kids," as privileged children of the elite are called, into an overthrow of the political system. The trajectory of Nepal's Gen Z — economically frustrated, technologically expert, educationally overqualified — is part of a wellspring of youthful dissent that has flowed in recent years from Indonesia and Bangladesh to the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

It is rooted in the same dissatisfaction that spurred rebellions and revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East 15 years ago. In 2023, a distraught Nepali businessman set himself on fire in front of parliament, an echo of the self-immolation of a Tunisian fruit seller that ignited the Arab Spring.

But interviews with dozens of young Nepalis, in the wake of the government ouster, make clear that the country's abrupt and violent shift was not what they envisioned. A mysteriously sourced call for another anti-corruption protest on Thursday has been met with both excitement and anger from Gen Z groups that say they desire no more upheaval.

After the government collapsed last month, thousands of Gen Z keyboard warriors supported the appointment of Sushila Karki, a corruption-busting former chief justice, as leader of a caretaker administration, making her Nepal's first female prime minister. Elections in this Himalayan nation, one of Asia's poorest, are scheduled for March. The three big political parties, which for years traded power and alliances with an exuberant disregard for ideology, have been cowed for now.

None of this, though, was what the young protesters intended when they planned their peaceful rally on Sept. 8.

"We wanted reform, not a revolution," said Tanuja Pandey, 25, who helped first publicise the protest on her Gen Z group's social media.

"I don't know what happened, but the whole thing was hijacked," she said.

Few in Nepal believe that the elections will result in the fundamental overhaul needed to fix a country so riddled with graft and patronage that its youth must seek their fortunes abroad. Karki, the interim prime minister, is in charge of a burned and broken bureaucracy.

"We are all wondering, what to do if everything goes back to the same way, even after we lost our blood and fallen comrades?" said Rakshya Bam, 26, a protest organiser, who missed a bullet by a fateful flick of her head. "What if all this was a waste?"

Day One: Slay, vibe, dance

On the morning of September 8, Pandey arrived with her friends at the chosen protest site in downtown Kathmandu, Nepal's capital. Pandey, a lawyer, was used to small, peaceful acts of dissent.

This march, though, felt different, she said. The online call by Pandey's group of activists and lawyers urging fellow Gen Z-ers to rally against corruption and the social media ban had spread fast. Hami Nepal, a civic organisation that helped with earthquake and flood relief, added its influential voice. Other youth groups popped up online calling for protesters to join.

Pandey thought the demonstration might get a few hundred people, a thousand if they were lucky.

By the time she got to the protest site, volunteers from Hami Nepal, led by Sudan Gurung, 36, were already there, setting up a medical tent and piles of water bottles. The police were curiously absent.

Misan Rai, 18, took a college entrance test that morning, but afterward she met a 17-year-old friend who was attending the rally with her mother. It was the girls' first-ever demonstration. They danced, chanted and vibed. They took selfies. They surged forward at the head of the protesters, now in the tens of thousands.

Near parliament, there was little to prevent people from pushing forward. A member of the organising team urged the patrolling police officers to set up more barricades. By late morning, men on motorcycles arrived. Many wore black. Some waved the Nepali flag. Some were Gen Z, but others were not. Pandey and some other organisers didn't like the intrusion. They had released an earnest set of protest prohibitions, including no flags or party symbols.

Mahesh Budhathoki, 22, rode among a fleet of motorcycles. These bikes, as well as the entrance of other men — older, tougher, tattooed — changed the protest's atmosphere, attendees said. The crowd got angrier, the slogans more extreme. The protesters rushed the gates of parliament. Men materialised with pickaxes. They attacked a fence. Rai watched the "goondas," as she called them, "like bad guys in Bollywood" films.

Near parliament, police officers took aim, according to videos and witness accounts. They shot live ammunition from buildings and from the street.

By the time the security forces had shot and killed 19 people and injured dozens more, Pandey had left the protest. Things had moved so quickly and gotten so violent that her group issued an online call urging everyone to leave. But forces that said they were associated with Gurung's group, Hami Nepal, issued a counter order, urging people to return.

By the afternoon of September 9, Pandey smelled smoke in the air. On her phone, she saw images of Kathmandu on fire. Parliament was burning, then the Supreme Court. The Singha Durbar government complex, home to about 20 ministries and a century-old palace, went up in smoke. In the name of the slain protesters, arsonists were destroying the city.

In another part of town, Budhathoki and his friends awaited instructions. Unfamiliar men handed them bottles filled with fuel, cloth stuffed in the top. The mob attacked a police station. From inside the station, a police officer grabbed a rifle and opened fire. The police said three officers died near the police station.

That same afternoon, K P Sharma Oli, the prime minister, stepped down, taking responsibility for the deaths of the young protesters the day before. Other members of the government, Cabinet ministers and the president, were taken by soldiers to a military compound, some by helicopter. Most were kept there for nearly three days, unable to communicate by cellphone.

As government buildings charred in the capital and elsewhere, mobs set fire to homes of current and retired politicians and their families in cities and towns across Nepal. The original Gen Z protesters, most of whom did not venture out on Sept. 9, started taking stock of what had happened.

On youth-heavy social media platforms like Discord, jubilant voices cheered the chaos. Gen Z had overthrown the government, they crowed.

As the country seemed to go up in flames, the military was told to stay in their barracks, political insiders said. Then, the army chief, Gen Ashok Raj Sigdel, announced that the army was taking charge at 10 pm. As quickly as the arson and looting had begun, it subsided. **NYT**

Bengal's unending dance with violence

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

The recent attack on Bharatiya Janata Party MP Khagen Murmu and Siliguri MLA Shankar Ghosh in Jalpaiguri district has once again lifted the veil on an old wound that never heals in West Bengal — the persistent culture of political violence and intimidation.

Murmu and Ghosh were assaulted during a visit to flood-affected areas; their vehicles were vandalised, and several accompanying journalists were injured. The BJP accused Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers of orchestrating the attack, while the ruling party dismissed the charges as "baseless".

The episode, though shocking, is hardly unprecedented. It fits into a disturbing continuity that stretches back decades — one where politics in Bengal has too often played out in the streets, not just at the ballot box.

To understand this recurring cycle, one must go back to the 1960s and 1970s, when ideological fervour and political rivalry turned increasingly militant. The Naxalite movement, born in the rice fields of Naxalbari, inspired both revolution and repression.

The 1970s and 1980s saw a spiral of political violence as the Left Front government, dominated by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), consolidated its power. The Left's rise in 1977 brought stability at the top but also cemented a cadre-based system. Local party workers controlled rural administration, police access, and welfare benefits -- blurring the line between governance and coercion.

When the TMC displaced the Left in 2011, the players changed, but the pattern persisted. Rival parties accused the new regime of replicating the same machinery of control and intimidation under a different banner.

West Bengal's elections have long stood out for their intensity — and bloodshed. The 2023 Panchayat polls saw at least a dozen deaths. In the 2021 Assembly elections, widespread clashes before and after voting left several dead and hundreds displaced.

Post-poll violence has become almost ritualistic, marked by revenge attacks and arson. Each election deepens old hostilities and breeds new ones, leaving villages and towns polarised along party lines.

The tragedy is that violence has been normalised. It is no longer an aberration—it is part of the political culture, a language through which power is asserted.

Observers point to a mix of historical, structural, and social factors that sustain this culture of confrontation. Over decades, political parties built dense networks of local cadres who acted as gatekeepers to state resources. Controlling a panchayat seat or municipal ward means control over contracts, welfare schemes, and influence. Violence becomes a means to maintain or seize that control.

Police and local administration often find themselves entangled in political loyalties. The lack of swift and impartial investigation emboldens perpetrators and fosters impunity. Since the BJP's rapid rise in Bengal after 2019, the stakes have soared. Both TMC and BJP treat each contest as existential. In such a climate, even a slogan, a flag, or a rally can spark clashes.

Bengal's layered social fabric — with tensions over religion, caste, and migration — adds further volatility. Northern districts such as Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, and Alipurduar, where the BJP has gained ground, have become flashpoints.

Bengal prides itself on its intellectual and cultural heritage—the land of Rabindranath Tagore, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Swami Vivekananda, and the cradle of the Bengal Renaissance. Yet this intellectualism has long coexisted with a visceral politics of domination and fear.

Some sociologists see this contradiction as rooted in Bengal's ideological vehemence. Whether under the Left, the Congress, or the TMC, politics here has always been framed as a moral struggle between good and evil — leaving little room for compromise. In many ways, Bengal thinks in political terms, lives through politics, and, tragically, often bleeds because of it.

With the 2026 Assembly elections less than a year away, the omens are worrying. The recent assaults on opposition leaders, the aggressive tone of political rallies, and the sharpening rhetoric on social media suggest the ground is already heating up.

The BJP hopes to expand its base in the state; the TMC is determined to defend its stronghold. Both parties accuse each other of unleashing violence — and both, critics say, benefit from the narrative of victimhood that violence creates.

Unless the Election Commission acts early, deploying central forces and enforcing strict neutrality, Bengal risks sliding into another cycle of bloodletting. Civil society groups, too, have a role to play in promoting dialogue and protecting the vulnerable during campaigns.

(The writer is a Delhi-based journalist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

Hearings over, SC verdict in PM's poll case reserved

New Delhi, October 9
The Supreme Court today reserved judgement on the constitutional and legal issues in Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's election case. Hearings in the case, which began on August 25, ended this afternoon when Mr. Shanti Bhushan, counsel for Mr. Raj Narain, concluded his counter- arguments. Mr. Bhushan submitted that if the 39th Amendment to the Constitution and the Election Laws Amendment were upheld, he would have nothing to add.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

Jaya gets 3 years' RI

Chennai, Oct 9
A special court today found AIADMK general secretary and former Chief Minister J Jayalalitha guilty of having misused her office during her rule and bought prime land in Chennai belonging to State- owned Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation (Tansi) for Jaya Publications and Sasi Enterprises in which she and her aide Sasikala Nataraj were partners and sentenced her to undergo two years and three years rigorous imprisonment on two counts, thus barring her from contesting elections for six years.

OASIS | NAZEER AHEMED KAZI

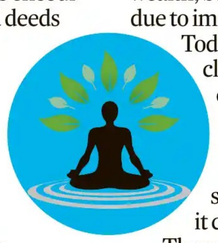
Proper and complete utilisation of time

In today's world, only a few people make full and proper use of time. For those who are diligent, time is never lacking. For the lazy, there is no time at all. Time waits for no one, asks no one; it moves forward on its own, continuously.

Wealth, honour, respect, or position if lost can be regained, but time once lost never comes back. Time does not show favouritism; everyone has only 24 hours in a day.

The Bhagavad Gita considers time a powerful, divine force -- an expression of Sri Krishna himself -- and an important element in both the material world and the spiritual journey.

In Islam, time is regarded as God's creation, a priceless gift, and a dimension of worship. Believers are encouraged to use it wisely for good deeds and to understand its divine connections. The Qur'an highlights the importance of time, stressing that if humanity does not use it for good deeds and faith, it is a grave loss.



The Bible discusses time in various ways, encouraging proper management and making the best use of the present. There is truth in the words of the Jordanian King: "I may be a king, but I am not rich enough to waste even a single minute."

Lately, people say everyone has wealth, but no one has time. This is due to improper time management.

Today, many people repeatedly claim, "There's no time." Some even remark how quickly time passes -- that they do not even realise when it has gone.

In reality, time neither speeds up nor slows down; it continues at its steady pace.

Therefore, we must understand this properly and align our work accordingly. In the present technological age, with so many tasks to complete, wasting time is never an option.

Time management is the key to success. Each day has 24 hours, and everyone should prepare a task list for the day in advance. It should include estimated times for each task. The golden rule is: plan your work and work your plan. Once the list is ready, one should not delay in executing it. India's former president Dr S Radhakrishnan said, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Therefore, living in the moment is important. Today's work should be done today and immediately to gain satisfaction. Tomorrow's work is for tomorrow. It is paramount to understand time and its importance.

'Shocked, but it's a forgotten chapter': CJI on shoe attack

Supreme Court bar association expels lawyer who tried to attack Justice Gavai

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Thursday said he and Justice K Vinod Chandran were shocked when an advocate attempted to hurl a shoe at him on October 6 during court proceedings, but added that it is now "a forgotten chapter."

The CJI broke his silence over the incident in which advocate Rakesh Kishore allegedly attempted to hurl a shoe in the courtroom.

He made the remark while hearing a batch of petitions seeking review and modification of the Vanashakti verdict, which prohibits the Centre from granting retrospective or ex-post facto environmental clearances to projects that violate environmental norms.

B R GAVAI
Chief Justice of India

"My learned brother (Justice Chandran) and I were very shocked with what happened on Monday; for us it is a forgotten chapter"

On the attack, the CJI said, "My learned brother (Justice Chandran) and I were very shocked with what happened on Monday. For us, it is a forgotten chapter."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta described the act as "unpardonable" and praised the CJI for his "magnanimity and composure."

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, who was also on the bench, expressed his disagreement over the lenient approach towards the errant lawyer. "I have my own views on this. He is the CJI—it is not a matter of joke," he said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, present in court, asked fellow senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan to proceed with main matter and avoid further discussion of the episode. The CJI then resumed the hearing, reiterating, "For us, it is a forgotten chapter."

In a separate development, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Thursday terminated with immediate effect the membership of lawyer Rakesh Kishore.

The SCBA said Kishore's "reprehensible, disorderly and intemperate behaviour" constituted "a direct assault on judicial independence" and "a serious breach of professional ethics, decorum and the dignity of the Supreme Court."

"The executive committee finds that the said conduct amounts to a direct assault on judicial independence, the sanctity of courtroom proceedings, and the longstanding relationship of mutual respect and trust between the Bar and the Bench," the SCBA said in a resolution.

Centre defers forest diversion for irrigation project in MP

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Union environment ministry has deferred Madhya Pradesh's proposal seeking diversion of over 740 hectares of reserve forest land in Sheopur district for the construction of a dam and micro irrigation system, citing the need for further study and a no-objection from Project Cheetah.

The proposed project area falls within the landscape of the Kuno National Park, where cheetahs were translocated from Africa starting September 2022.

The ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) said the state must obtain comments or a no-objection certificate from Project Cheetah under the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) before any clearance is granted.

The FAC, which met on September 26, examined MP's request for non-forestry use of 740.159 hectares of reserve forest for the irrigation project on the seasonal Aheli river.

The river flows only during the monsoon and remains dry for most of the year.

Officials told the committee that the project would help impound water for a longer period, which would benefit about 40,000 families in 34 villages.

Sex education must be from younger age, not Class IX: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said that sex education should be provided to children from a younger age, and not Class IX onwards, and that it should be a part of the curriculum in higher-secondary schools.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhe said it was for the authorities concerned to apply their mind and take corrective measures so that children were informed of the changes that happen after puberty, and the care and cautions to be taken in relation thereto.

The court made the observations while granting bail to a 15-year-old boy accused of offences under Sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC and Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.

The court emphasised that sex education should be part of the curriculum in higher-secondary schools so that adolescents are made aware of the hormonal changes that come with puberty.

The bench made absolute its previous order of September 10, granting bail to the accused minor, saying it would operate till the conclusion of the proceedings.

Examining the challenge to the Allahabad HC's refusal to grant bail to the juvenile, the apex court had asked the UP government to file an affidavit explaining how sex education was provided as a part of the curriculum in higher-secondary schools within the state so that young adolescents were made aware of the hormonal changes that come with puberty and the consequences that may flow therefrom.

Telangana CM raises concerns over US tariff hikes, H-1B visa fees

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana Chief A Revanth Reddy on Thursday voiced concerns over recent US moves to increase tariffs on Indian goods and raise the H-1B visa fee.

During a meeting with an American delegation, including senior US business leaders, think tank representatives, and philanthropic figures, Revanth highlighted the significant contributions of the Telangana diaspora to America's progress.

The CM cautioned that the recent H-1B visa fee hike could adversely impact both economies. He also pointed to the apprehension triggered by abrupt policy shifts such as tariff hikes.

The visiting delegation, which focuses on bilateral relations, investment, and policy exchange, held discussions with both the CM and IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu.

Explaining his plans for the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, the CM said the government aims to become a $1 trillion economy by 2034 and $3 trillion by 2047. He said Hyderabad is now competing with New York, Tokyo and South Korea, challenged by global standards in improving our infrastructure and manufacturing capabilities.

Further, he stressed on the government's plans to place Telangana as the standout choice for the 'China+1' strategy. "I request the support of US industry partners in the development of the Bharat Future City. In the near future, I would like to invite all the Fortune 500 companies to have a presence in Future City," he added.

Meanwhile, Minister Sridhar Babu outlined the government's grand plans to establish the state as a skill capital, especially in the AI domain by setting up an AI University in Hyderabad.

Building on the city's emergence as a hub for Global Capacity Centres (GCCs), we plan to encourage the GCCs towards becoming value centres, thereby exporting services and building products, he said and added that efforts are on to further nurture indigenous firms.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

BUMSTEAD, CORA AND I WILL BE FINE WHILE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR FANCY 4TH OF JULY BARBECUE
IT'S NOTHING FANCY, BOSS, JUST ME AND THE GRILL!
I MEAN...SO WHAT IF CORA THINKS A WELL-DONE BURGER MEANS A CHARRED, SCORCHED HUNK OF GRIZZLE
BOSS, DO YOU WANT TO COME OVER AND JOIN US?
WE'D LOVE TO!

Hagar The Horrible

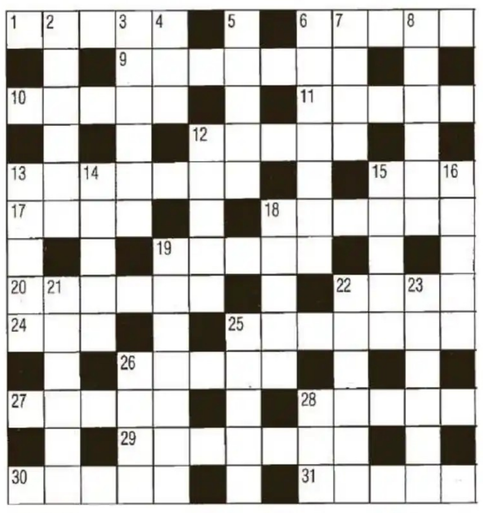
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

I CAN SEE WHY YOU LIKE SOCCER SO MUCH, LUCY...
THE RUNNING... THE FANCY FOOTWORK...
IT'S ALSO A REAL TEAM GAME...PUTTING TOGETHER A PERFECT PLAY CAN BE VERY GRATIFYING...
I JUST LIKE TO KICK THINGS

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12264



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Dance frenziedly with a lass (5)
6 Those whom U.S. soldiers embrace right and left? (5)
9 Where to pick fruit or drink a lot (7)
10 "Way out" beverage? (5)
11 A pose as a writer (5)
12 Letter from the boy, thanks, in Greek (5)
13 In a way, there's nothing for me in an exhibition (7)
15 Bobby's a top rhymester (3)
17 She shows points to some idiot (4)
18 Mysterious wrecking of a crane (6)
19 One may yearn to heave them (5)
20 Speaks American, perhaps (6)
22 It's in extremes of penury that one gets compassion (4)
24 How time changes one! (3)
25 Crazy bunch? (7)
26 Meant me to help out (5)
27 Something for one to sit down and play (5)
28 Another name for Diana? (5)
29 Unreasonable strife about an upstart is simply too much (7)
30 Company emblems of record size? (5)
31 Shelf left on one side (5)

DOWN
2 The fighting line in a London district (6)
3 So hardened to being sozzled (6)
4 Skill in creating some turn-up in trade (3)
5 Had a fling (5)
6 Those speaking harshly of certain kitchen equipment? (7)
7 Just a suggestion of inspiration? (4)
8 Regard as a mere bystander? (4,2)
12 A female to cheat at some risk (5)
13 There's good reason to make it (5)
14 Where, in Italy, you could get a letter from Manila (5)
15 Hut serving as a taxi shelter? (5)
16 Samuel had plenty of energy on half days (5)
18 Go it and you'll be a leader! (5)
19 When Rosie's mad with us, it's no joke! (7)
21 Guided also around the city (6)
22 Something tasteful consumed by a friend (6)
23 Attractive, thanks to Rex(6)
25 Burly sixfooter starting and finishing Friday (5)
26 A capital orchestra, too (4)
28 Nothing but national insurance money (3)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Middle (5)
6 Woo (5)
9 Card game (7)
10 Fool (5)
11 Sister (5)
12 Sweets (5)
13 Be relevant (7)
15 Allow (3)
17 Female sheep (4)
18 Within (6)
19 Matter (5)
20 Puma (6)
22 Unmarried woman (4)
24 Consume (3)
25 Rename (7)
26 Beer (5)
27 Essential (5)
28 Quilt (5)
29 Furniture item (7)
30 Lustre (5)
31 At no time (5)

DOWN
2 Prince (6)
3 Nozzles (6)
4 Baby (3)
5 Blemish (5)
6 Pleased (7)
7 Burden (4)
8 Hurried (6)
12 Small (5)
13 Tranquillity (5)
14 Disprove (5)
15 Scope (5)
16 Mock (5)
18 Archer's target (5)
19 Language (7)
21 Stupid (6)
22 Tiny (6)
23 Cover (6)
25 Send (5)
26 Decorative material (4)
28 Lair (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12263

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Saddle 7, Eye-teeth 8, Errand 10, D-Al-ry 13, We-ak 14, Oslo 15, Land 16,Tea 17, Bras 19, Is-Is. 21, Touch down 23, Cuts 24, O-is-E 26, Pot 27,Thud 29, Due-L 32, D-i.e.-t 33, Betty 34, Notice 35, Land's End 36, Revels.
DOWN: 1, K-end-O 2, Devil 3, Very 4, S-he-EN 5, Dirk 6, Lunges 9, R-adios 11, A-sh 12, Ro-b-ot 13, Wash-out 15, Lac 16,Ti-N 18, Rust-ic 20, S-W-ede 21,Tut 22, Di-D 23, Coyote 25, Vet 28, Heels 30, Utter 31, Lynda 32, Dice 33, Bade.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, All-out 7, Half-hour 8, Goblet 10, Abyss 13, Cube 14, Rasp 15, Diet 16, Her 17, Emit 19, Amen 21, Animation 23, Bids 24, Dent 26, Jar 27, Shed 29, Evil 32, Feel 33, Slime 34, Armada 35, Vindaloo 36, Flimsy.
DOWN: 1, Shear 2, Slays 3,Thus 4, Argue 5, Lobe 6, Uneven 9, Obtain 11, Baa 12, Spend 13, Citadel 15, Dim 16, Hen 18, Missed 20, Motel 21, Air 22,Ted 23, Barrel 25, Him 28, Heavy 30, Viola 31, Lemon 32, Farm 33, Suds

◆SU-DO-KU-6722◆

8	2							
	4	6			2		3	
		3		7				
9			6		5	4		
7			9		1			8
		2	7		8			5
				8		3		
	8		4			1	2	
							8	6

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6721

7	8	2	9	4	1	5	3	6
9	5	4	3	6	2	7	1	8
3	1	6	5	7	8	2	4	9
4	6	3	2	9	7	1	8	5
8	7	1	6	3	5	9	2	4
2	9	5	1	8	4	3	6	7
5	4	7	8	1	3	6	9	2
1	2	9	4	5	6	8	7	3
6	3	8	7	2	9	4	5	1

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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								RACK 1
I1	L1	C3	C3	N1	I1	I1		
								RACK 2
U1	G2	S1	G2	T1	S1	E1	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 3
Y4	V4	R1	P3	A1	E1	O1	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 4
G2	U1	R1	D2	A1	E1	P3	2nd Letter Double	
								RACK 5
N1	O1	Y4	A1	S1	M3	R1		

PAR SCORE 200-210
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4	L1	O1	R1	A1	L1		
O1	P3	E1	N1	I1	N1	G2	
A1	N1	T1	I1	L1	O1	G2	
T1	H4	U1	G2	S1			

RACK 1 = 18
RACK 2 = 60
RACK 3 = 58
RACK 4 = 27
JUDD'S TOTAL 163

PAR SCORE 105-115

HITORI-3176

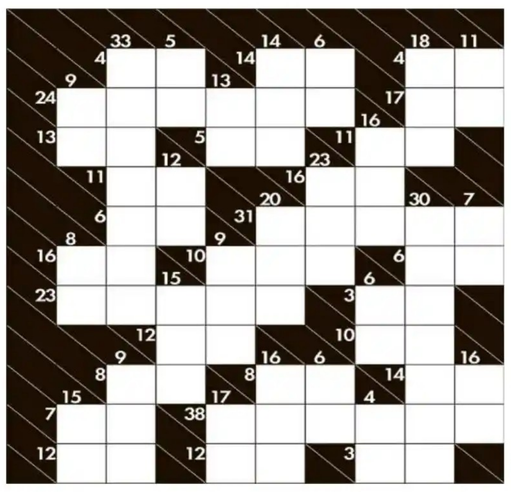
7	1	2	5	1	4	8	3
1	2	5	6	7	1	7	3
1	7	7	8	2	7	3	5
8	7	6	7	3	5	7	1
7	3	7	6	5	2	7	4
6	7	3	7	4	8	1	8
3	6	4	2	1	7	5	3
7	4	7	1	7	8	6	7

SOLUTION TO 3175

■	3	7	4	8	■	5	6
7	■	6	■	3	8	■	5
4	8	5	6	■	3	7	1
■	2	■	7	6	5	1	8
8	■	1	5	■	2	■	7
5	1	3	■	7	6	2	■
6	4	■	1	5	■	8	3
■	6	8	■	4	1	■	2

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3176



SOLUTION TO 3175

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3701

■			5	4				■
9	■	7					■	
	1	■				■	7	
		6	■		4			
	4			3		7		9
			■	2	■			1
		■				■	2	
	■		2		8	5	■	6
7	6						4	■

SOLUTION TO 3700

2	8	1	4	7	5	6	9	3
6	4	5	3	9	1	2	8	7
3	9	7	6	2	8	4	1	5
7	1	3	8	6	9	5	2	4
8	5	6	2	1	4	3	7	9
9	2	4	7	5	3	8	6	1
1	7	2	5	4	6	9	3	8
4	6	8	9	3	7	1	5	2
5	3	9	1	8	2	7	4	6

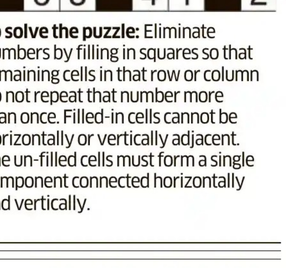
To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NNOOI
NRKIB
WPNEEH
SARYGS


Oh, no! The button jammed again! It didn't record.
What? We need to get this story out.
I gotta get the cattle off the road before someone gets hurt.
4/2
WHEN THEIR EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONED DURING THE INTERVIEW, IT WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HONEY BLURT FORMAL BRIGHT
Answer: When it came to keeping the ball on the fairway, the golfer was having a — ROUGH TIME

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Resumption of direct flights with India to improve ties: Beijing

BEIJING, PTI: China on Thursday described the resumption of direct flights with India after a five-year hiatus as a positive step, saying it demonstrated that both countries are "faithfully acting" on the understandings reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping to strengthen bilateral ties.

Speaking at a media briefing, the first since the Chinese Foreign Ministry resumed its regular schedule following the eight-day national holidays, spokesperson Guo Jiakun said the flights would resume by the end of October.

India had announced on October 2 that direct flights to China would resume from October 26.

"This is the latest move that demonstrates how the two sides faithfully act on the important common understandings reached between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tianjin on August 31," Guo said in response to a question.

China outlines more controls on exports of rare earths

HONG KONG, AP/PTI: China outlined new curbs on exports of rare earths and related technologies on Thursday, extending controls over the use of the elements critical for many products ahead of a meeting later this month between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

The regulations require foreign companies to get special approval to export items that contain even small traces of rare earths elements sourced from China. Beijing will also impose permitting requirements on exports of technologies related to rare earths mining, smelting and magnet-making.

Israel & Hamas to swap hostages, prisoners under Trump's plan

Ceasefire agreement brings sigh of relief to Israelis and Palestinians

CAIRO, AP/PTI

Israel and Hamas have agreed to a pause in their devastating two-year war, with the remaining hostages to be released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners — a breakthrough met with joy and relief on Thursday, but also with caution.

Uncertainty remains about aspects of the broader peace plan advanced by the administration of US President Donald Trump — such as whether and how Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza.

But the sides appear closer than they have been in months to ending a war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, reduced much of Gaza to rubble, brought famine to parts of the territory, and left dozens of hostages, living and dead, in Gaza.

The war, which began with Hamas' deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, has also triggered other conflicts in the region, sparked worldwide protests and led to allegations of genocide that Israel denies.

Even with the agreement expected to be signed later in the day, Israeli strikes continued, with explosions seen Thursday in northern Gaza. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

An Israeli military official who spoke on the condition of anonymity in line with military guidelines said that Israel was continuing to hit targets that posed a threat to its troops as they reposition.

In the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, celebrations were relatively muted and often coloured by grief.

"I am happy and unhappy. We have lost a lot of people and lost loved ones, friends and family. We lost our homes," said Mohammad Al-Farra. "Despite our happiness, we cannot help but think of what is to come. ... The areas we are going back to, or intending to return to, are uninhabitable."

In Tel Aviv, families of the remaining hostages popped champagne and cried tears of joy after Trump announced a deal late Wednesday.

In Jerusalem on Thursday, Sharon Canot celebrated with some others. "We are so excited this morning, we cried all morning," she said. "It's been two years that we are in horror."

Under the terms, Hamas intends to release all living hostages in a matter of days, while the Israeli military will begin a withdrawal from the majority of Gaza. Some 20 of the 48 hostages still in captivity are believed to be alive.

In a short video posted by US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, Trump was seen speaking by phone to a group of elated hostage families. "The hostages will come back," said Trump, who is expected in the region in the coming days.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to convene his Security Cabinet late Thursday to approve the ceasefire, and the entire parliament will then meet to approve the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Hamas, meanwhile, called on Trump and the mediators to ensure that Israel implements "without disavowal or delay" the troop withdrawal.

People celebrate at the "Hostages Square" after US President Donald Trump announced that Israel and Hamas agreed on the first phase of a Gaza ceasefire in Tel Aviv on Thursday. REUTERS

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio updates President Donald Trump on the Gaza proposal during a roundtable on Antifa at the White House on Wednesday. REUTERS

Palestinians celebrate news of Gaza ceasefire deal in Deir al-Balah, Gaza. AFP

World leaders hope for lasting peace

ATHENS, AP/PTI

World leaders expressed hope for peace and urged Israel and Hamas to fulfil their commitments in the hours after US President Donald Trump announced that the parties had agreed to a deal.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "With God's help we will bring them (hostages) all home."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose country played a role in the negotiations, hailed the agreement. He thanked Trump for "demonstrating the necessary political will," as well as Qatar and Egypt for facilitating the deal.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi hailed the deal between Israel and Hamas as a "historic moment." "It also opens the door of hope," el-Sissi wrote on social media.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the UN "will support the full implementation of the agreement and will scale up the delivery of sustained and principled humanitarian relief, and we will advance recovery and reconstruction efforts in Gaza."

French President Emmanuel Macron said the agreement is a "great hope for the hostages and their families, for the Palestinians in Gaza, and for the entire region."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed the agreement and praised the "tireless diplomatic efforts" of the mediators. He said the UK will support efforts to turn the ceasefire into a "sustainable path" to long-term peace.

HOW THE TRUMP PLAN WILL UNFOLD

- The deal, to be approved by Israel's parliament and signed in Egypt, includes maps outlining the first phase of Israel's military withdrawal to new positions in Gaza. Israel will publish a list of prisoners to be released. The withdrawal could begin as early as Thursday evening, according to officials.
- Hamas will begin releasing all living hostages starting Monday, though some officials say it could happen as early as Sunday night. In return, Israel will release Palestinian prisoners. Five border crossings, including the Rafah crossing, will reopen – initially allowing 400 aid trucks daily, later rising to 600.
- Israel to keep an open-ended military presence along Gaza's border while an international force oversees security. The United States will lead reconstruction effort. The plan also envisions a reformed Palestinian Authority taking an eventual role in Gaza, though it offers little clarity on a future Palestinian state.

India, Australia seal deal to rescue each others' submarines

India also offers to maintain, repair, overhaul Australian ships in its yards

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the Chinese maritime footprint getting bigger in the Indian Ocean region, India on Thursday signed an agreement with Australia to rescue each other's submarines in cases of emergencies, besides offering its Quad partner to maintain, repair, and overhaul the Royal Australian Navy ships in Indian yards.

In their first bilateral meeting at Canberra, described as "productive" by both sides, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Australian counterpart Richard Marles also signed two other pacts — on "information exchange" and "Joint Staff talks" — while opening the doors for Australia and Japan to be present as an "observer" at the India-US Air Force exercise Cope India 2025.

Rajnath, currently on a two-day visit to Australia, called on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and met Foreign Minister Penny Wong, broadly focusing on imparting more dynamism to bilateral relations.

The two defence ministers affirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation with regional partners to help maintain a free, open, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific, underscoring their strong support for freedom of navigation, overflight, and unimpeded trade in the region.

The resolve came against the backdrop of China's People's Liberation Army Navy increasing military assertiveness in the strategic waters.

The submarine-rescue agreement comes at a time when Australia is likely to get nuclear-powered submarines from the US and UK. The submarines will be based in Western Australia, on the northeastern edge of the Indian Ocean.

Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Canberra on Thursday. PTI

Krasznahorkai wins Literature Nobel

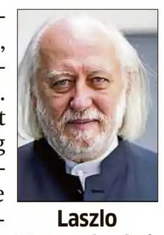
STOCKHOLM, AFP

The Nobel Prize in Literature was on Thursday awarded to Laszlo Krasznahorkai, widely regarded as Hungary's most important living author, whose works explore themes of postmodern dystopia and melancholy.

The Swedish Academy honoured him "for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art." "I'm very happy, I'm calm and very nervous altogether," Krasznahorkai told Swedish broadcaster Sveriges Radio from Frankfurt. "It is my first day as a Nobel prize winner."

The Academy highlighted Krasznahorkai's first novel, published in 1985, Satantango, which brought him prominence in Hungary and remains his best-known work, calling it "a literary sensation".

Krasznahorkai is "a great epic writer in the Central European tradition that extends through Kafka to Thomas Bernhard, and is characterised by absurdism and grotesque excess," the Academy said. "But there are more strings to his bow, and he also looks to the East, adopting a more contemplative, finely calibrated tone. The result is a string of works inspired by the deep impressions left by his journeys to China and Japan."


Laszlo Krasznahorkai

He was among those mentioned as a possible winner in the run-up to the announcement. The Academy noted his flowing syntax with long, winding sentences devoid of full stops, which has become his signature. "While it is Krasznahorkai's weighty, rolling syntax that has become his signature, his style also allows for a lightness of touch and a great lyrical beauty," Academy member Steve Sem-Sandberg said.

Krasznahorkai, 71, grew up in a middle-class Jewish family. He has drawn inspiration from his experiences under communism and from extensive travels. His novels, short stories, and essays are best known in Germany, where he lived for long periods, and in Hungary.

The Nobel Prize includes a diploma, a gold medal, and a $1.2 million prize.

Putin admits Russian role in 2024 crash of Azerbaijani jet

MOSCOW, AFP: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday admitted for the first time his country played a role in the 2024 crash of an Azerbaijani passenger plane, terming it a "tragedy".

The Azerbaijan Airlines flight crash landed in Kazakhstan on December 25, killing 38 of the 67 people on board, after being diverted from a scheduled landing in the Russian city of Grozny.

In a meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Putin said Russia had deployed two missiles to destroy Ukrainian drones on the morning of the incident, and that they exploded "a few meters away" from the aircraft. "Russia will do everything necessary in such tragic cases to provide compensation," he said.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/5470 Dated : 08.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids against **Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/733/Call-2 Dated: 25.09.2025** for Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of Coyote & Rabbit ACSR conductors required for various sub-stations of KPTCL for maintenance purpose coming under Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Mysuru conforming to our technical specifications. F.O.R.D. at store/site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **08.10.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana,
FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007.
Phone No.: 0821-2455770/2457275

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, CITY CUSTOMS, BENGALURU C.R. BUILDING, QUEEN'S ROAD, BENGALURU-560 001
Phone No. (080) 22866783, 22866253
Email: commrcity-cusblr@nic.in, legal.citycusblr@gov.in

CUS/PROS/MISC/127/2022-Pros Date: 09.10.2025

NOTICE FOR SELECTION OF SPECIAL PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

Applications are hereby invited, in accordance with Section 18(8) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, from advocates who have a minimum of ten years of practice experience and are duly registered with the Karnataka State Bar Council, for selection and appointment as Special Public Prosecutors (SPPs) for the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to handle the cases/ matters brought before the Subordinate Courts/Courts of Session and Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka.

SPPs initially appointed will have the opportunity for the renewal of their appointments, contingent upon recommendations from the respective (Pr.) Commissioner of CGST/Customs or (Pr.) ADG of DGGI/DRI. An annual performance assessment will be conducted after the first 12 months of engagement.

Interested candidates should submit their applications using the prescribed Proforma-A (found in Annexure I to Public Notice No. 09/2025 dated 09.10.2025 on the City Customs Bengaluru website: (https://bangalorecustoms.gov.in/bengaluru-city-customs/#publicnotices)"

Along with the application, candidates should provide their Bio-Data to the Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Bengaluru City Commissionerate, C.R. Building, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 560001. The application may also be submitted through email legal.citycusblr@gov.in.The deadline for submissions is 25th October, 2025, at 06:00 pm. The applicants are required to attend the interview scheduled on 29.10.2025 at 11.00 am at Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Bengaluru City Commissionerate, C.R. Building, Queens Road, Bengaluru 560001.

For detailed qualifications, terms and conditions of engagement, as well as the schedule of fees and allowances, please refer to CBIC (Legal Cell) Instruction dated 29-02-2016 (Reference No. 278A/54/2015-Legal) and the letter dated 25-05-2010 (Reference No. 278A/82/2008-Legal), both issued by CBIC (Legal Cell). These documents are appended as Annexure II & III to Public Notice No. 09/2025 dated 09.10.2025.

Sd/- ADDITITIONAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
BENGALURU CITY CUSTOMS

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIVISION, BELAGAVI
PH.NO. 0831-2463850 / FAX NO. 0831-2423008
No. EE/MI &GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE/2025-26/3471 DATE: 08.10.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-1,2 & 3)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 06 Nos. of Gokak Sub Divisions Estimate Amount Highest Rs. 72.00 Lakhs & Lowest Rs. 3.80 Lakh. 1. Tender Receipt Last Date: 16.10.2025 Evening 4.00 pm 2. Tender Opening Date 17.10.2025 Evening 4.30 pm (if possible), 3. For Tender Details office address: Executive Engineer, Minor irrigation & ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi & www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division, Belagavi

DIPR/BGM/RO.No.1152/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

SHARAVATHY HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

(1) KPCL/2025-26/GH/WORK_INDENT3245, Dt: 04.10.2025. Replacement of damaged skin plates and related repair works for Radial gates at Linganamakki Dam. EMD: **Rs. 1,10,360/-.** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **27.10.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer (Gates)Sharavathy,** KPCL, Kargal-577421, Sagar Tq., Shivamogga Dist. M: 9148346914/ 9480830315, e-mail: eegatessharavathy@gmail.com

BHADRA GENERATING STATION (CORRIGENDUM-I)

(1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3477, Dt: 06.10.2025. Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Carbon Brush holders for Rotor Slip Rings on RB#1, RB#2, RBK#1, RBK#2 and LB Unit at BGS. Last date for submission of tender is extended up to : **21.10.2025 up to 16.30 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer (O&M)Bhadra,** KPCL, B.R. Projects-577115, Bhadravathi Tq., Shivamogga Dist., M: 9449598814.

KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

(1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3558, Dt: 04.10.2025. Supply and Installation of additional CCTVs at KPCL Ganeshgudi Colony. EMD: **Rs. 14,300/-. (2)** KPCL/2025-26/DA/WORK_INDENT3555, Dt: 03.10.2025. Providing and isntallation of Automatic Weather Station at Upper Kaneri Dam. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 4.66 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 11,700/-.** Period of completion: **Three months (Excluding Monsoon).** Category: **Open. (3)** KPCL/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT3522, Replacement of wornout CI raising main with DI 150mm pipe with accessories from jackwell to pump house at Kadra colony. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 68.33 lakhs.**EMD: **Rs. 1,37,000/-.** Contract Period: **4 months(Excluding Monsoon).** Tender type: **Open. (4)** KPCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3449, Providing anti-termite treatment to the residential and non residential building of Kadra Colony. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 16.93 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 42,400/-.** Contract Period: **3 months(Excluding Monsoon).** Tender type: **Open. (5)** KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3524, Restoration of storm water drains at Kadra Colony. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 8.46 lakhs.**EMD: **Rs. 10,600/-.** Contract Period: **3 months(Excluding Monsoon).** Tender type: **Reserved.** Last date & time for submission of tenders: for Sl.No. (1): **21.10.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs,** for Sl.No. (2): **17.10.2025, 17.30 Hrs.** , & for Sl.No. (3) & (4): **21.10.2025, 17.00 Hrs,** & for Sl.No. (5): **14.10.2025, 17.00 Hrs.** Further information can be had from : for Sl.No. (1): **Superintending Engineer(Electrical) Supa, M: 9449598804,** for Sl.No. (2): **Executive Engineer(Civil) Supa,** KPCL, Ganeshgudi-581365, Joida Tq., Uttara Kannada Dist., and for Sl.No. (3 to 5): **Executive Engineer(Civil)Kadra,** KPCL, Kadra-581396.

Office of the Principal District and Sessions Judge,
Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru
No.: ACCTS/49/2025-26 (Xerox Outsource Doddaballapura) Date: 24.09.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

This office invites E-Tenders from eligible **private Xerox operators for the Office of the (1) IV Additional District and Sessions Court, Doddaballapura, (2) Senior Civil Judge and JMFC, Doddaballapura, (3) Principal Civil Judge and JMFC, Doddaballapura, for providing Photocopier services by installing a copier machine along with the operator (i.e. Operators and machine operation services) on paise and rupees per page basis for a period of one (1) year** (which may be extended for a further period of two years (total 3 years) on renewal every year) through e-portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tender No. as per KPPP: HCK/2025-26/SE0087. Total Estimated Tender Amount: **Rs.10,00,000/- per annum.** EMD: **Rs.20,000/-.** Last date and time for submission of tender proposal: **15.10.2025, up to 5.00 PM.** Date and time of opening of Technical bids: **16.10.2025, at 5.01 PM.** Financial bid: **After approval of technical bid.** For further details, contact: Tel: 080-22939382 / E-mail: bngrur002@gmail.com

Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer (In-charge),
District and Sessions Court, Bengaluru Rural District,
Bengaluru.

DIPR/DD-C.P/3173/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHITTAPUR
Tq. -Chittapur, District- Kalaburagi,
E-mail: ka.chittapur.tmc@gmail.com & itstaff_ulb_chittapura@yahoo.com

No.TMCC/AMRUT/SFC&MF/2025-26 Date: 08.10.2025

-: TENDER NOTIFICATION :-

The Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council Office Chittapur, District Kalaburagi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal in two cover system using **KW-3 document** from Eligible Contractors for **AMRUT, SFC & MF Grant,** Chittapur, Kalaburagi District works as detailed below:-

1) Description of Work : Providing the Manpower Services of Drivers, Watchman, Supervisors, Operators, Cleaners and Loaders Town Municipal Council Chittapur on outsource basis. TENDER NO:- DMA/2025-26/SE6063, Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs) : **57.73,** EMD Amount (Rs.) : 1,15,460/-, Class of Contractor : Eligible registered contractors, Period of completion excluding rainy season : 12 Months from the date of award

2) Description of Work : Development of Green space and Parks at Sy no. 1/5, 6 &7 Varun Nagar in Chittapur Town. TENDER NO:- DMA/2025-26/OW/ WORK_INDENT46911/CALL-2, Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs) : **55.87** (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (Rs.) : 1,11,740/-, Class of Contractor: Eligible registered contractors, Period of completion excluding rainy season : 6 Months & 5 Years Maintenance from the date of award

Contractors can download and submit the tenders from dated: 29.09.2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

1) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **14.10.2025 upto 5.00 PM**, 2) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **14.10.2025 upto 5.30 PM**, 3) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **16.10.2025 at 11.00 AM**, 4) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **18.11.2025 at 11.00 AM**

Postponement of Calender of events (or if any information is only published through e-Procurement portal only) and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Chief Officer,
TMC Chittapur

DIPR/Kalaburagi/609/KSMC&A/2025-26

TCS posts 1.4% rise in Q2 net profit but misses street estimate

H-1B visas: Company says workforce significantly localised

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The country's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Thursday posted a 1.4% increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 12,075 crore for the quarter ended September 2025 (compared to Rs 11,909 crore in the same quarter last year) falling short of the average analysts' estimate of Rs 12,560 crore.

Its revenue from operations was up 2.4% y-o-y at Rs 65,799 crore compared to Rs 64,259 crore in the year-ago period.

K Krithivasan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, TCS, during the analyst call said the deal pipeline continues to show strong momentum with a healthy mix of cost optimisation and transformation deals.

"Based on client conversations and the strong demand pipeline, we see FY26 international revenue growth to be better than last fiscal year. IT services spend is steady with more significant change expected in near term.

Lingering uncertainties in the broader economic environment continue to remain a key challenge. Companies are keeping a tight control over their discretionary budgets in response to economic and demand volatility," the CEO added.

In Q2, the company's total contract value (TCV) stood at $10 billion, and operating margin was at 25.2%, an expansion of 70 bps QoQ. The IT firm's international revenue grew 0.6% sequentially in constant currency terms. Its BFSI vertical witnessed 1.1% growth sequentially and Life Sciences & Healthcare vertical grew 3.4%.

The company also announced the acquisition of US-based ListEngage for $72.80 million.

TCS CEO K. Krithivasan

Aarthi Subramanian, Executive Director - President and Chief Operating Officer, said, "We delivered strong growth momentum led by data, cloud and AI powered enterprise transformation. Our new AI and Services Transformation unit will further scale and integrate our efforts."

Samir Seksaria, Chief Financial Officer, said that the company achieved good growth momentum across all verticals in the second quarter. He added that they have prioritised wage hikes, building future-ready capabilities and establishing new ecosystem partnerships.

"Looking ahead, our financial resilience and robust balance sheet will support both internal transformation initiatives and external investments aligned with our aspiration," he added.

On H-1B visas, Chief HR officer Sudeep Kunnumal said that they have significantly localised the workforce in the US. "Approximately just about 500 associates have traveled to the US on H-1B," he added.

Total headcount down by 19,755 in Q2, more layoffs on the cards

TCS, which has recorded a one-time restructuring expense of Rs 1,135 crore, mostly towards severance pay, in the second quarter, hinted at more layoffs in the coming quarter. The company's workforce has declined by 19,755 employees in the second quarter alone. Its closing headcount stood at 5,93,314 as of September 2025, compared to 6,13,069 employees in June quarter.

Earlier in July, the company announced job cuts that will impact 2% of its global workforce or about 12,250 employees. In the analyst call, the company's senior executives said, in Q2, they reduced the workforce by 1% or about 6,000 people and the other 1% will be reduced in the coming quarter. It will also continue to evaluate people who can be redeployed and those who could not be. The newly appointed Chief HR officer Sudeep Kunnumal said the reduction in headcount also includes voluntary attrition. Voluntary attrition in IT Services stood at 13.3% in the second quarter.

Talking about redundancy charges, K Krithivasan, CEO and MD said, "We would be continuing this exercise throughout the year and are not chasing a particular number here."

TCS to build 1 GW AI data centre in India

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Aiming to become the world's largest AI-led technology services firm, Tata Consultancy Services has announced a new business entity to build a 1GW capacity AI data centre in India.

Though the company did not share investment details, K Krithivasan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, TCS said in an analyst call that from a CapEx perspective, they have set a target of 1 GW, but they will be doing it in phases. "We expect to achieve one gigawatt over a period of five to seven years. Roughly about every 150 megawatt would be about a billion dollars. So it's not that we are going to put all the money in year one. And we also clarify that this would be a combination of equity and debt," he explained.

The company will also bring in finance partners for the equity. This announcement by TCS comes at a time when many US-based AI firms are launching their centres in India. With clients expecting Artificial Intelligence (AI) in every deal, IT services firms have now started upping their game in AI and also upskilling their employees in AI.

The CEO also said that they have been engaging with clients in understanding the challenges they are facing in scaling AI and collaborating with technology partners and academia to unlock the true potential of this technology. "TCS will become the largest AI-led technology services company enabling business, government and society. This transformation is currently underway. We are committed to making significant investments towards transforming ourselves in order to realize our vision," he added.

Meanwhile, brokerage Jefferies said the 1GW plan by TCS could place TCS among the country's top-5 data center operators. And that this could involve a capital expenditure of about $5 billion.

India wants to double trade with UK by 2030: PM

British PM Keir Starmer and PM Narendra Modi attend the India-UK CEO Forum in Mumbai on Thursday. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Helping other countries develop digital technologies'

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

After the highly-successful trade talks with British premier Keir Starmer in Mumbai, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's plans to double bilateral trade with United Kingdom by 2030 from the existing level of $56 billion, even as he seemed to take a dig at United States President Donald Trump, albeit without naming him.

"Today our (Indo-UK) bilateral trade is of the order of $56 billion. We have set a target of doubling it by 2030. I am confident we can achieve the target before that," Modi said addressing the India-UK CEO Forum.

Besides, Modi, while addressing the sixth edition of Global Fintech Festival, shared how India was helping other countries in the development of digital technologies.

"We are also helping other countries to develop technologies besides sharing it....*aur yeh* digital aid *nahi hai, verna duniya mein kai logo ko shouk hai ki weh* aid *de rahe hai.... samajdar ko ishara kafi hai*... for us this is not aid, but digital empowerment," he said in what seemed to be a jibe aimed at Trump.

Underlining that India has democratised digital technology, making it accessible to every citizen and every region of the country, the Prime Minister highlighted that this has now become India's model of good governance.

"India and the UK are natural partners. Our relationship is built on the shared values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. In today's time of global uncertainty, our growing partnership stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress," Modi after talks with Starmer.

"India Stack is not merely a story of India's success, but a beacon of hope for the world, especially for countries in the Global South", the PM said emphasising that through its digital innovations, India aims to foster digital cooperation and digital partnerships globally.

Modi cited Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) developed in India, as a major example, noting that over twenty-five countries are adopting it to build their sovereign digital identity systems.

Modi said that digital payments have become routine in India, attributing this success to the JAM Trinity—Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile.

No plans to raise stake in Vodafone Idea beyond 49%: Scindia

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government has no plans to raise its stake in the cash-strapped telecom firm Vodafone Idea beyond the existing 49%, Union Communications Minister Jyotiditya Scindia said on Thursday.

Talking to reporters at the India Mobile Congress, the minister said raising stake beyond its existing level would transform the private telecom operator into a public sector undertaking.

Scindia clarified that the government has no plans to convert Vodafone Idea into a public sector firm.

As per the Companies Act, 2013, if the government, central or state, owns 51% or more of the paid-up share capital then that company is defined as a government company.

The central government has become the largest shareholder of Vodafone Idea by converting the company's spectrum payment dues into equity shares. However, the UK-based Vodafone Plc and Aditya Birla Group retain operational control of the company, which was formed in 2018 by merging Vodafone India and Idea Cellular.

At the time of merger it was India's largest telecom operator. Due to mounting debt the company is now struggling to survive. Vodafone Plc's stake in the company has now declined to 16.1%, Aditya Birla Group's to 9.4%.

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia at 'India Mobile Congress 2025', on Wednesday.

Share price of Vodafone Idea closed 0.11% lower at Rs 9.03 at the BSE on Thursday.

Speaking about the growing importance of the telecom sector in the economy, Scindia said the contribution of the telecom sector to India's GDP is estimated to increase to 20% in the next 12% from the current around 12–14%.

"The last 10 years have seen an exponential change in the telecom and digital sector. We have today 1.2 billion subscribers — it's the largest penetrated market in the world," he said.

"We have 20% of the world's mobile subscribers. Internet connectivity has surged from 250 million to 974 million users, while broadband connectivity has grown from 60 million to 934 million users in the last decade," Scindia added.

UK firm Graphcore to open AI engineering campus in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

UK-headquartered semiconductor company Graphcore, a wholly owned subsidiary of SoftBank, will open a new AI engineering campus in Bengaluru. This new centre will create 500 new semiconductor jobs. The chipmaker will invest up to £1 billion over the next decade.

"The decision to locate Graphcore's new AI engineering campus in Bengaluru was an easy one. Even in a country filled with technology engineering talent, Bengaluru stands out," the company said.

Graphcore said that they are immediately starting to hire the first 100 AI semiconductor engineering roles in India, including silicon logical design, physical design, verification, characterisation and 'bring-up'.

The company's engineers in Bengaluru will be developing semiconductor products for use by the world's leading AI practitioners – to help solve global challenges in drug discovery and public health, environmental sustainability and to improve business productivity, it added.

Founded in 2016, the company was acquired by SoftBank in 2024. SoftBank Group has invested more than $12 billion in India over the past decade.

"Demand for AI compute is vast and continues to grow. There remains much to do to improve efficiency, resilience, and computational power to unlock the full potential of AI. In SoftBank, we have a partner that can enable the Graphcore team to redefine the landscape for AI technology," Graphcore co-founder and CEO Nigel Toon had said when SoftBank acquired the company.

'Chevron's Bengaluru hub supports its global businesses'

BENGALURU, DHNS: US energy major Chevron said its Engineering and Innovation Excellence Centre (ENGINE) in Bengaluru is supporting the company's global businesses.

Akshay Sahni, Country Head, Chevron India, on Thursday said the centre supports from subsurface modelling to complex processing facility performance monitoring - underpinned by a strong focus on AI and digital solutions.

The energy company has inaugurated its new facility in Bengaluru, marking its one year of operations for its ENGINE. Earlier this year, the company said it would invest $1 billion in the excellence centre, which is the largest facility outside the US.

Akshay Sahni

"This billion-dollar investment is across a period of four to six years. It's on the people, IT infrastructure and technology labs. We have access to high performance computing," he said. Over the last one year, the company has hired over 1,000 professionals.

Sahni added that at the ENGINE, domain experts are mechanical, chemical and civil structural engineers. "People who work on these complex processing facilities are strong chemical engineers. They are co-located with AI experts. And the AI experts are also co-located with the cyber security operation technology experts, because a lot of the work we do requires IoT sensors, cyber security and AI solutions. They are intertwined with our domain expertise so that we can deliver these technology solutions quickly and efficiently," he added.

The centre is a strategic technology hub by co-locating digital innovation experts with advanced domain engineering knowledge. With robotic facilities, digital tools like digital twins and AI, the new hub in Bengaluru makes use of many advanced technologies.

Mahindra rules out demerger of auto and tractor businesses

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The country's leading farm equipment and SUV manufacturer Mahindra Group on Thursday ruled out any plans of demerging its auto and tractor businesses saying the company sees "much greater value from synergies by keeping" them together.

It was reported in a section of the media that Mahindra Group was evaluating major restructuring of its businesses by separating passenger vehicles, tractors and trucks into separate independent entities.

"In view of the above speculation, the Company on its own considers it necessary to clarify to the Stock Exchanges that there is no plan for a demerger of the Auto and Tractor businesses," Mahindra & Mahindra said in a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges.

"The Company has clarified this in the past and maintains that it sees much greater value from synergies by keeping these businesses within the M&M entity," it said.

Mahindra Group is the world's largest producer of tractors by volume. Recently, Mahindra & Mahindra overtook Hyundai to become the second largest car manufacturer in the country. The company enjoys a leadership position in the sports utility vehicle (SUV) category.

Specsmakers to add 350 stores in South India in 2-3 years

E.T.B. SIVAPRIYAN
COIMBATORE, DHNS

Chennai-based eyewear brand Specsmakers plans to more than double the number of stores from its existing 250 to 600 across South India in the next three years before venturing into western India. The home-grown start-up, which was launched with two stores in 2007, is also focussing on 'Make in India' by procuring all its lenses from within the country and cutting them at two of its factories in Chennai and Bengaluru.

Predominantly present in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, Specsmakers is making an aggressive push into Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala, Pratik Shah, CEO and founder of Specsmakers, told *DH* in an interaction on the sidelines of the Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit

"We want to add another 350 stores in South India in the next three years. As far as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are concerned, we are now getting deeper into tier-2 and tier-3 cities. We are getting more into cities like Hubballi, Davangere, Belagavi, and Gulbarga in Karnataka," Shah said.

In the next three years, Specsmakers will have about 100 stores in and around Bengaluru and 50 stores in the rest of the state. "We plan to increase the number of our stores to 200 in Tamil Nadu, 150 in Karnataka, 150 in Andhra Pradesh, and 100 in Kerala in the next three years. While the target for South is 600, we will explore opportunities to venture into the western Indian market when we reach 450 stores," Shah.

Specsmakers, which competes with Titan Eye Plus and Lenskart (both of whom have wider market presence and exposure) will enter the North Indian market slowly as Shah believes that this category does not need a first more advantage.

"You can always go to the North, because I think operationally it makes sense for us to have more control over the South, then go to West and then go to central India, and finally North India. All our stores are company-operated and we don't allow franchise models," Shah added.

On the company's efforts to Make in India, Shah said while the company still imports glass frames from China, it has started working with some factories in Gujarat to manufacture them here. We get spare parts from China and assemble the frames here in India. However, the lenses we use are completely manufactured in India," he added.

Shah said Specsmakers will set up a frame manufacturing unit in the next three to five years and stressed on the need for creating an ecosystem in India to manufacture frames.

Silver surges Rs 6,000 to record Rs 1.63 lakh/kg in Delhi

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver prices surged by Rs 6,000 to hit a fresh record of Rs 1,63,000 per kg in the national capital on Thursday as the white metal touched the $50 per ounce level for the first time in the overseas markets.

Analysts said robust industrial demand, geopolitical, economic uncertainties and growing expectations of interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve have spurred the demand for the white metal.

The white metal saw such a steep surge for the second time in a week. It climbed Rs 7,400 to close at Rs 1,57,400 per kg on October 6.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, silver had closed at Rs 1,57,000 per kg on Wednesday.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5% purity stayed unchanged at their all-time high levels of Rs 1,26,600 per 10 grams and Rs 1,26,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), respectively, on Thursday.

Globally, spot gold was trading marginally lower at $4,039.26 per ounce.

Silver rose more than 2% to breach the crucial $50 per ounce mark in the spot markets for the first time.

"Silver rose to hit record highs as heightened political and economic uncertainties and bets on US rate cuts drove safe-haven demand," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 064.
Website: rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER NOTICE
RWF/M/OT/MR/2025-26/54RT dtd. 08/10/2025

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works).**

Tender Number: **RWF/M/OT/MR/2025-26/54RT dtd. 08/10/2025. Name of the work: I. Safe disposal of zero value Hazardous waste and II. Zero value Non-Hazardous waste.** Estimated Cost: **Rs.1,72,69,535.80.** Earnest Money Deposit: **Rs.2,36,300.00.** Date & Time of Closing of Tenders: **30/10/2025 at 10.30 Hrs.** Completion Period: **30 Months.**

This tender notice along with eligibility criteria can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**

DY. CME/W-I

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY CAMPUS
NAGARESHWARA NAGENAHALLI
PO-KOTHANUR, BANAGALORE – 560077
Tele : 7411652986/9482465605
E-Mail :aifd@awesindia.edu.in
Web :www.aifd.edu.in and www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT(STP)

1. **AWES Campus, Bangalore - 77 invites EOI from reputed Vendors for "Establishing New Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Army Welfare Education Society (AWES) Campus, Bangalore – 560077".**
2. Scope of Work and other details are available in our web site **www.aifd.edu.in** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in**
3. The last date for submission of EOI is **05 Nov 2025.**

Sd/- Registrar and HoA

Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕ: ಶಿಮನಪಾಶಿ:ಕಾವಿ:ಟೆಂಡರ್:30/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e- Procurement portal)

Tenders have been invited through KPP portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Standard Tender Document procedure to undertake the following works in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The bidders who are interested in participating through KPP portal can obtain the details in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

1. For works of Indent No 49268, 47684, 47459/Call-2, SE6263, SE6266 the last date for submission of tender through KPP portal : **15.10.2025 (upto 4.00 PM)** and for the works of indent no. 49558 the last date for submission of tender is: **23.10.2025 (upto 4.00 PM).**

2. For works of Indent No 49268, 47684, 47459/Call-2, SE6263, SE6266 the date for opening of technical tender through KPP portal : **16.10.2025 (at 4.30 PM)** and for the works of indent no. 49558 the date for opening of technical tender is: **24.10.2025 (at 4.30 PM).**

3. For works of Indent No 49268 and 47684 the date for opening of financial tender through KPP portal : **17.10.2025 (at 4.30 PM)** and for the works of indent no. 49558 the date for opening of financial tender is: **27.10.2025 (at 4.30 PM)**

GRANTS: Railway Departments Deposit Contribution Grants, General Fund of City Corporation for the year 2025-26, 15th Finance Commission MPC Grants for the year 2021-22 and City Corporation's Sewerage grants for the year 2025-26.

NOTE: Details can be had from KPP portal and other details from Office Notice Board. Any changes/corrigendum will be notified in KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
City Corporation, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No- 20-10/zenkar/2025-26

Yukikaze wins feature

MYSURU RESULTS

Rakesh-trained Yukikaze, ridden by Antony Raj, won the Chief Minister's Cup, the feature event of the Mysuru races on Thursday.

1. Dupont Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Sea Of Adventure (Mrs Namratha Salvi) Asirvatham 1; Just Blues (Arind Kumar) 2; Anustubha (Antony Raj) 3; Abnegator (Alex Rozario) 4; Wb: 4, 3/4, 2-1/4L. T: 1:11.66. TB: Bipin Salvi. Fav: Sea Of Adventure.

2. Dupont Plate (Div I) -1200M: Authentic Bell (J Yogesh) S Imran 1; Magic Circle (Sai Kiran) 2; Golden Bird (Pavan) 3; Maybury (Prabhu Kumar) 4; Not Run: One Diamond. Wb: 2-1/4, 3-3/4, 3/4L. T: 1:12.36. TB: J.Ganesh. Fav: Authentic Bell.

3. Gool & Soli Poonawalla Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Goddess Of War (CA Prashant) Antony Raj 1; Vibrant Queen (Alex Rozario) 2; Silver Quest (Rahul) 3; Darrington (Arvind Kumar) 4; Wb: 3/4, 1/2, 3-1/2L. T: 1:23.48. TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Goddess Of War.

4. Chief Minister's Cup - 1600M: Yukikaze (Mrs Namratha Rakesh) Antony Raj 1; One Nation (Abhishek Mhatre) 2; Assurances (Aleemuddin) 3; Power Of Gold (Akshay Kumar) 4; Not Run; Carter. Wb: 1-3/4, 2-1/2, 4-1/2. 1:37.31. TB: Rakesh. Fav: Power Of Gold.

5. Hotel R R R Trophy - 1200M: Ocean (Sudendhu Shah) Faiz 1; Natural Tornado (Ankit Pal) 2; Grace (Asirvatham) 3; Sherpa (Anil Baandal) 4; Wb: 3, Hd, Snk. T: 1:11.70. TB: Monnappa. Fav: Ocean.

6. Coorg Plate - 1100M: Klimt (M Bobby) Sai Kiran 1; Vayu (Aleemuddin) 2; Maple Leaf (Pavan) 3; Golden Time (Vinod Shinde) 4; Wb: Nk, 3/4, 3-1/4L.. T: 1-05.33. TB: M.Bobby. Fav: Vayu.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 15w; 10, 21, 13p; Fc: Rs 98; Q: Rs 122; Shp: Rs 70; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 293 & 120; Ex: Rs 1,966 & 992.
II race: Rs 25w; Rs 13, 10, 11p; Fc: Rs 52; Q: Rs 22; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 236 & 118; Ex: Rs 291 & 117.
III race: Rs 13w; 11, 24, 17p; Fc: Rs 74; Q: Rs 86; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 403 & 83; Ex: Rs 784 & 294.
IV race: Rs 29w; 14, 18, 13p; Fc: Rs 324; Q: Rs 144; Shp: Rs 46; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 1,009 & 381: Ex: Rs 934 & 300.
V race: Rs 19w; 12, 24, 14p; Fc: Rs 182; Q: Rs 109; Shp: Rs 61; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 813 & 198; Ex: Rs 70,953.
VI race: Rs 34w; 13, 10, 37p; Fc: Rs 82; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 71; Tri: Rs 717 & 321; Ex: Rs 2,612 & 1,119.
Jackpot: Rs 2,366 (118). **Runner-up:** Rs 161 (745). **I treble:** Rs 345 (13).
II treble: Rs 513 (24).

Meropi for main event

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Meropi, from the stables of Aashay Doctor and to be ridden by Trevor Patel, is fancied to win the Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship, the feature event of the Mysuru races on Friday.
The first race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Mandya Plate - 1600M: Warrior Woman 1, Article Fifteen 2, Lead Singer 3.
2. Belur Plate - 1400M: Acantha 1, Amazing Attracition 2, D Fronx 3.
3. Original Vel Racing Trophy - 1600M: Mystikos 1, Stravinksy 2, Mystic Divine 3.
4. Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship - 1200M: Meropi 1, Aldgate 2, Imperial Blue 3.
5. KT Shamaiah Gowda Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Crosswater 1, Auspicious Queen 2, Kanya Rashi 3.
6. Bharachukki Plate - 1200M: Selma 1, D Roman Reigns 2, Sienna Princess 3.
Day's best: Mystikos. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **II treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Fourth Wing for feature

CHENNAI SELECTIONS

Aman Alfaf Hussain-trained Fourth Wing, to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, is fancied to win the Coromandel Gromor Fillies Trial Stakes, the feature event of the Chennai races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs at the races on Friday.
The first race starts at 2:15 pm.

1. Elusive Pimpernal Handicap - 1400M: Flourish 1, Aquila 2, Saintly Star 3.
2. Super Brave Handicap - 1600M: Refreshment 1, Thrill Of Brazil 2, Adornment 3.
3. Adler Handicap - 1200M: Noorie 1, Shibra 2, Sovereign Spirit 3.
4. Delage Handicap - 1200M: Doncaster Belle 1, Dynamic Force 2, Thessalian 3.
5. Coromandel Gromor Fillies Trial Stakes - 1400M: Fourth Wing 1,Perfect Attitude 2, Lena 3.
6. Bugs Bunny Handicap - 1600M: Charismatic 1, Grenoble 2, Queen Anula 3.
Day's best: Charismatic.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: 4, 5 & 6.

Karnataka's Yashaswini selected for Asian meet

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka paddler Yashaswini Ghorpade was shortlisted for the Indian squad for the upcoming Asian Table Tennis Championships in Bhubaneswar from October 11.

Bengaluru-based Yashaswini is currently the fourth-highest ranking Indian among women paddlers (World No. 89) behind Sreeja Akula (39), Manika Batra (44) and Diya Chitale (86). Yashaswini, who recently turned 20, is also a doubles World No. 34 along with her compatriot Chitale. The Indian table tennis body named a 10-member squad for the event, with five men and women paddlers each.

India squad: Men: Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah, SFR Snehit, Payas Jain, Ankur Bhattacharjee.
Women: Sreeja Akula, Manika Batra, Yashashwini Ghorpade, Diya Chitale, Swastika Ghosh.

CRICKET WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

South Africa win a humdinger

De Klerk's knock eclipses Richa's heroics as India suffer first loss

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

South Africa trumped Richa Ghosh's vibrant 94 through collective combativeness of Laura Wolvaardt and Nadine de Klerk to eke out a thrilling three-wicket win over India in the Women's World Cup here on Thursday.

Skipper Wolvaardt (70), Chloe Tryon (49) and Nadine de Klerk (84 not out, 54 balls) played lead roles as South Africa overhauled India's 251, and rose to fourth position on the table.

They ended up at 252 for seven in 48.5 overs.

Once half of South Africa's batting unit returned to the hut with less than 100 on the board, their chase appeared to have been doomed.

Pacer Kranti Gaud's stunning return catch to dismiss opener Tazmin Brits for a naught, triggered SA's slide.

Nadine de Klerk scored an unbeaten 84 off 54 balls in South Africa's three-wicket win over India during their Women's World Cup match in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. PTI

Veterans Marizanne Kapp, Sune Luus, Anneke Bosch and Sinalo Jafta did not last long in the middle, as South Africa slid to 81 for five.

Wolvaardt added 51 runs for the sixth wicket with Chloe Tryon to steady the ship.

She essayed some archetypal drives to reach her fifty in 81 balls, however, Gaud returned to snap the alliance with a searing yorker that crashed through Wolvaardt's defence.

The Proteas were 142 for six then, and still 110 runs away from the target.

But Tryon and De Klerk, who clobbered Gaud for two successive sixes, braved the variety in Indian attack to stitch an alliance of 69 runs for the seventh wicket, which carried their side closer to the finishing line.

The visitors needed 52 runs off the last five overs, and surmounted that 10 runs an over situation through prudence and power of De Klerk.

Earlier, Ghosh displayed the same qualities in ample measures to roll to an innings of rare brilliance, which came in 77 balls (11x4, 4x6).

The right-hander found perfect pacing and placing during her fifty after walking in at a marshy 102 for six.

The rescue work started with Ghosh adding 51 runs for the steady seventh wicket with Amanjot Kaur.

A power-hitter, Ghosh curtailed her instincts and raised her fifty in 53 balls, with two slog-swept sixes off Nadine de Klerk and Tumi Sekhukhune giving her some tempo.

But Kaur departed in her effort to up the scoring rate, as India were once again pegged back at 153 for seven.

However, Ghosh found another able and stable ally in Sneh Rana (33) as they realised 88 runs off 53 balls for the eighth wicket.

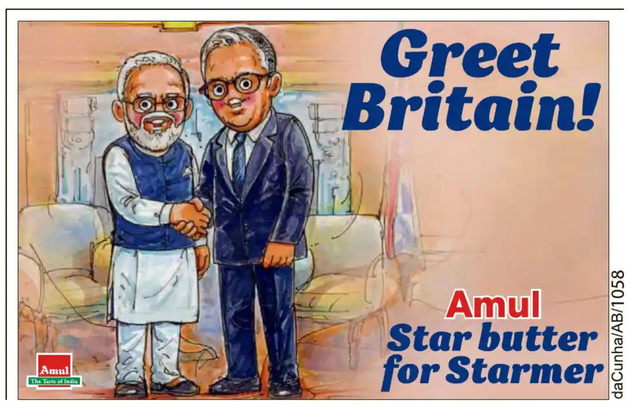
Brief scores: India: 251 all out in 49.5 overs (Pratika Rawal 37, Richa Ghosh 94, Sneh Rana 33; Chloe Tyron 3-32, Marizanne Kapp 2-45, Nadine de Klerk 2-52, Nonkululeko Mlaba 2-46) lt to South Africa: 252/7 in 48.5 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 70, Chole Tryon 49, Nadine de Klerk 84 n.o.; Kranti Gaud 2-59, Sneh Rana 2-47). **Result:** SA won by 3 wickets. **PoM:** Nadine de Klerk.

Bangla spinners ready to test NZ

Former champions New Zealand will have their backs to the wall when they take on a confident and spin-heavy Bangladesh in a crucial ICC Women's World ODI Cup group match at the ACA Barsapara Stadium, here on Friday, reports PTI from Guwahati.

While New Zealand are yet to open their account after two successive defeats, Bangladesh will eye a second win from three matches that would consolidate their position in the top-four. The White Ferns, who were champions in 2000, are staring at an early exit if there is a third straight loss.

Bangladesh's well-rounded spin attack has been their biggest weapon so far and on the slow and dry Guwahati surface has offered turn as the game progresses. They would look to bounce back from their defeat against England.



daCunha/AB/1058

Kasparov grabs early lead

Anand will hope to flip the script on the second day

Garry Kasparov

Viswanathan Anand

ST LOUIS (USA), PTI

Garry Kasparov stole the eyeballs on the opening day as he defeated Viswanathan Anand in the third game and took a slender 2.5-1.5 lead in the Clutch Chess between the two legends underway here.

By consent, the best ever player in chess history, Kasparov at 62 showed there is still a lot of chess left in him after retiring 21 years ago. Anand had his chances but could not capitalised on them.

With the daily schedule having two rapid and two blitz games under the chess 960 format, the pieces are set randomly before the start of the game. It is through a drawing of lots that the position to be played is determined and the same position is played for the whole four games with two white and two black for both players.

Interestingly, the first two games of the day were drawn and it was in the third game that Kasparov was able to break the deadlock as Anand walked into a lost King and pawns endgame, possibly from what could have been a probable draw.

It was in the first game that Anand had outplayed Kasparov and the former world No. 1 survived thanks to some unforced error by the Indian ace.

The second game was drawn and so was the fourth, leaving a lot of room for both players to improve upon their chances in the $144,000 prize money contest.

It will have $70,000 reserved for the winner and $50,000 for the loser and another $24,000 are reserved for scoring victories with a roll over of money in case of draws.

The battle is only likely to get more exciting on the second day as each victory will be worth two points, meaning if Anand wins one and draws the remaining three games, he will have to lead in the match.

On the third day, each victory will be worth three points apiece.

India seal semis berth

GUWAHATI, PTI

India beat Korea to reach the semifinals and assure themselves of a maiden medal at the World Junior Mixed Team Badminton Championships here on Thursday.

The hosts won 44-45, 45-30, 45-33 in a nerve-wracking quarterfinal clash that lasted almost three hours as the semifinal appearance assured India of their first-ever mixed-team medal in the history of BWF World Junior Championships.

The Indian shuttlers will face Asian U-19 mixed team champions Indonesia in the semifinals.

Indonesia defeated Chinese Taipei 45-35, 45-35 in another quarterfinal match at the National Centre of Excellence here.

The way India had lined-up for the quarterfinals, it was quite clear that they were heavily relying on their singles players to bail them out in case the Koreans made the most of their doubles strength.

Unnati Hooda once again played a crucial role in India's quarterfinal win over Korea at the World Junior Mixed Team Badminton Championships on Thursday.

The first set went accordingly as Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu went down 5-9 in the first boys doubles against Cho Hyeong Woo and Lee Hyeong Woo.

The Indian girls doubles combination of Vennala K and Reshika U managed to reduce the deficit by one point by beating Cheon Hye In and Moon In Seo 10-9, before Rounak Chouhan brought them within one point by defeating Choi Ah Seung 11-9.

However, a 4-9 loss for C Lalramsanga and Aanya Bisht in the mixed doubles against Lee and Cheon meant that Unnati Hooda had to win 15 points before her opponent Kim Han Bi could reach nine.

Unnati began strong by taking a 3-0 lead, but Kim managed to draw level at 6-6.

It looked like the set was slipping from India's hand. But Unnati dug deep and played long rallies to win five straight points to build pressure on her opponent, and went on to draw level at 44-44. However, her serve on set point landed in the net and a distraught Unnati just dropped her racquet in despair.

India made two substitutions ahead of the second set with Lalramsanga replacing Gobburu in boys doubles and Vishakha Toppo coming in for Bisht.

'Performers at National juniors to be considered for Sr C'ships'

BHUBANESHWAR, PTI: Top performers during the five-day National Junior Athletics Championships starting here on Friday will be considered for the South Asian Senior Championships in Ranchi next month, the Athletics Federation of India said on Thursday.

"The South Asian Senior Athletics Championships will act as an excellent exposure on the home soil for promising junior athletes," AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla said during a press conference here.

"In addition to senior athletes, the AFI selection panel will consider youngsters in the national team (for the South Asian meet)."

The South Asian Senior Championships will be held at Ranchi's Birsa Munda Stadium from November 24 to 26 under the aegis of South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF).

Ruthless Sabalenka races into quarters

WUHAN, (CHINA), AFP

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka raced into a fourth consecutive Wuhan Open quarterfinal Thursday, having revealed she spent time on holiday last month practising with Novak Djokovic.

She was joined by Iga Swiatek who reached her 25th WTA 1000 quarter-final with a hard-fought 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 win over Belinda Bencic.

Sabalenka, in contrast to her rusty start against Rebecca Sramkova the day before, came out firing from the get-go to blow away Russia's world number 20 Liudmila Samsonova 6-3, 6-2.

Sabalenka, whose unbeaten match run in Wuhan extended to 19-0 as she seeks a fourth straight title, took a month off after winning her fourth Grand Slam title at the US Open in early September.

She went on holiday to Greece, where she spent time hitting with former No. 1 Djokovic, who is a resident there.

Aryna Sabalenka

Poland's Swiatek will face Italy's Jasmine Paolini for a place in the semi-finals

Vacherot stuns Rune

Qualifier Valentin Vacherot battled back to stun world No. 11 Holger Rune and reach the Shanghai Masters semifinals on Thursday, winning 2-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4.

Vacherot came back from a set down, denying the Dane what had initially looked like a straightforward win.

Women's polo team loses in knockouts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian women's polo team title run ended at the Asian Aquatics Championships as they slumped to 6-34 defeat to world No. 15 China in the quarterfinals in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Karnataka's Dhruthi DK scored a hat-trick for the losing cause while her captain Varsha Suresh, Safwa Sakeer, and Krisha Purokayasta added one goal each. China, on the other hand, dominated the proceedings from the first quarter with Peiyang, Li Linyun, and Li Jianyu scoring seven goals each.

The Indian team will now turn their focus to Asian Games qualification as the 5th-8th place classification matches take place on Friday.

Results: Quarterfinals: Women: Hong Kong: 16 lt to Japan: 20; Singapore: 7 lt to Kazakhstan: 10; Uzbekistan: 6 lt to Thailand: 8; India: 6 lt to China: 34.
Men: Thailand: 6 lt to Iran: 21; Singapore: 13 lt to China: 18; Hong Kong (China): 12 lt to Japan: 29; Uzbekistan: 11 lt to Kazakhstan: 27.

Real-life hero Simran delivers a blockbuster hit

Visually impaired para sprinter lives up to her dream of winning gold in front of home crowd

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

It was the kind of moment every athlete dreams of. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi was buzzing, thousands chanting "Bhaag Simran Bhaag!" as the crowd held up placards with her name.

For Simran Sharma, the Paris Paralympic bronze medallist, it wasn't the first time she had raced before a packed house. But this time, competing at home, it hit differently. The Meerut sprinter was no longer just another athlete on the track; she was the star of her own blockbuster.

"It honestly felt like I was in a movie where I was the hero," Simran tells *DH* with a grin. "Right from the call room, people were cheering for me. Some wished me luck, others shouted '*Didi* gold medal *jeet ke ana* (Didi, bring gold medal).' When I stepped onto the track, the roar of the crowd gave me goosebumps. I just knew I had to deliver my best performance."

And she did. The 25-year-old para athlete dazzled the Delhi crowd by winning the women's T12 100m race in a national record time of 11.95 seconds, just 0.03 seconds shy of the Asian mark. Guided by her running partner Umar Saifi, Simran powered through the finish line to claim gold, which was also her first in the event.

She didn't stop there as the 200m defending world champion clocked 24.46 seconds in the 200m final, smashing the Asian record to clinch silver. It was a performance worthy of a standing ovation, and she got just that.

Simran with her husband and coach Gajendra Singh.

Biggest supporter

Behind the spotlight, however, stands her biggest cheerleader: her husband and coach Gajendra Singh. Simran credits him for being her rock through every hurdle, both on and off the track. Before the sponsorships and government support came through, the couple went through some tough days financially.

"There were times when he ate less just so I could get the nutrition I needed," Simran recalls.

"He never let me feel like we were struggling, but I knew what he was giving up for me."

Gajendra, an Army man, has been her guide long before Umar took the track role. His toughest battle wasn't on the field, but at home. Back in 2017, he had to convince his parents to accept his decision to marry a visually impaired woman. "It wasn't easy," he admitted. "People had their doubts. But I told my family clearly if I can't marry Simran, I won't marry anyone. I asked them not to worry about others because she would one day make us all proud."

That faith has been richly rewarded. As the Singh family cheered their daughter-in-law from the stands during her gold-medal run, the moment felt like a full-circle victory, not just for the athlete, but for everyone who stood by her.

Now, the couple is already looking ahead. Gajendra has his eyes on a specific goal: "We missed the Asian record in the 100m by just a whisker. That's an unfinished business for the Asian Para Games next year." Simran, ever the go-getter, has an even bigger plan. Cutting her husband off mid-sentence, she said, "I'm going for three medals next time, in three different events. That's my next mission."

From humble beginnings to a roaring home crowd, Simran's story reads like a script from a feel-good sports drama, except this one's real. And if her latest chapter is anything to go by, the sequel promises to be even more thrilling.

SIMRAN SHARMA IN A NUT SHELL

- **DoB:** Nov 9, 1999, Gaziabad (UP), Born prematurely with visual impairment
- **Personal bests:** 100m: 11.95 seconds NR (2025); 200m: 24.46 AR (2025)
- **Paralympics:** 2024 Paris: Bronze in 200m T12
- **World Championships:** 2024 Kobe: Gold in 200m T12
- **2025 New Delhi:** Gold in 100m T12 and Silver in 200m T12
- **Asian Para Games:** 2022 Hangzhou: Silver in 100m T12; Silver in 200m T12

Vaibhav & Vaibhav set up Karnataka win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Vaibhav Sharma claimed a five-for (5/21) after his namesake Vaibhav C scored a valuable 56 off 45 balls (6x4) in a low-scoring match to power Karnataka to a 28-run win over in their Vinoo Mankad Trophy opener in Dehradun on Thursday.

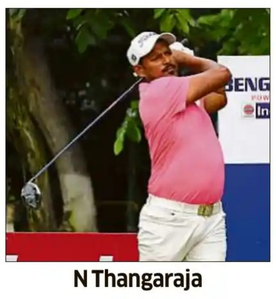
Brief scores: Karnataka: 167/7 in 28 overs (Rehan Mohammed 46, Vaibhav C 56 n.o.; Prem Gone 2-50, V Yashveer 4-36) bt Hyderabad: 139/9 in 28 overs (Alankrith Rapole 27; Vaibhav Sharma 5-21, Rathan BR 2-31). (Start was delayed due to wet outfield and match was reduced to 28 overs per side).

Women win

Karnataka women posted their second win in as many games in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy in Gwalior.

After restricting Andhra to 75 all out in 19.1 overs, Karnataka replied with 79/2 in 15 overs with skipper Niki Prasad to-scoring with 31 n.o.

Brief scores: Andhra: 75 all out in 19.1 overs (S Meghana 26; Rajeshwari 2-11, Sahana S Pawar 2-20, BG Tejashwini 2-13, Shreyanka R Patil 2-14) lt to Karnataka: 79/2 in 15 overs (Niki Prasad 31 n.o., Prathyoosha Kumar 26 n.o.).



N Thangaraja

Thangaraja takes 5-shot lead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Lanka's N Thangaraja, feeding off his recent successes on the PGTI, produced a brilliant five-under 66 in round three to establish a commanding five-shot lead at the Bengaluru Open at the Karnataka Golf Association in Bengaluru.

Thangaraja (66-65-66), the overnight leader by one shot, moved his total to 16-under 197 that gave him a comfortable advantage over the rest of the field and saw him emerge as the clear favourite for the title.

Hyderabad's Mohd Azhar (69-66-67), Gurugram's Manu Gandas (70-63-69) and Kolkata's Viraj Madappa (65-67-70) were bunched in tied second place at 11-under 202.

Khalin Joshi was the highest-placed among the Bengaluru-based players as he occupied tied eighth position at eight-under 205. Khalin shot the day's joint lowest score of 65.

Scores (after 54 holes): 197: N Thangaraja (66, 65, 66); **202:** Mohd Azhar (69, 66, 67), Viraj Madappa (65, 67, 70), Manu Gandas (70, 63, 69); **203:** Vishesh Sharma (69, 66, 68).

Chance for India to test the untested

Gill's men take on West Indies today with an eye on series, WTC points

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Whenever Roger Federer faced Andy Roddick, especially in Grand Slams or in finals, one knew what the outcome would be. The Swiss great never lost to the American, winning all eight of their contests in Majors and three title clashes.

If one cuts to cricket, India enjoys the same dominance versus Pakistan in ICC World Cups, having beaten their arch-rivals in all eight ODI affairs and six out of the seven T20Is. It's the same in Tests between India and West Indies, with the former not having lost a single contest since the defeat at Sabina Park, Jamaica, way back in May 2002.

So, when India square up for the second Test against West Indies at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here from Friday following a crushing innings and 140-run win in the opener in Ahmedabad, it's not a matter of winning but the margin that's been spoken about. Will India win inside three days again? Can beleaguered West Indies offer even a semblance of a fight?

India, though, will be using this contest to iron out a few flaws and give some guys a chance to hit their straps ahead of the crucial two-Test series against South Africa at home next month. One person for whom the match is of great significance is Sai Sudharsan. Picked into the Test team following two smashing IPLs and handed the crucial No. 3 spot, the southpaw has struggled to make his talent speak, and pressure is slowly mounting on him to deliver. Given how beleaguered the West Indies are and the good batting conditions that Kotla is set to offer, the Test is a great opportunity for the 23-year-old to silence the critics and show why the management and selectors have so much faith in him.

India vs Windies head to head in Tests

	Mats	Ind Won	Drawn	WI Won
Overall	101	24	47	30
Since Oct 2002	26	16	10	0
In India	48	14	20	14
In India since 2002	11	9	2	0

India's record in Delhi

Before 1993		Since 1993
22	Mats	13
3	Won	11
13	Drawn	2
6	Lost	0

Batting stats for top 7

India		Windies
7	Mats	6
47.92	Avg	13.92
15	100s	0
17	50s	3

Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal will also be treating the contest to get back into his groove. Following a fine England series where he scored two centuries and two half-centuries to aggregate 411 runs, Jaiswal is yet to hit the top gear. In the Duleep Trophy match preceding this series, he scored just 4 and 64, while in the opening Test he got out for 36, a loose shot costing him his wicket there. Jaiswal has been picked for the ODI series in Australia starting right after this game, and a big knock here would do his confidence a world of good.

India will also be looking at giving all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy a longer stint in the middle with both bat and ball. The management is grooming the youngster as the next seaming all-rounder—a vital cog when India travel to SENA countries—and skipper Shubman Gill should try extracting more from him if that's the plan. In the first Test, the 22-year-old, who returned from a knee injury suffered during the England series, bowled just four overs and didn't get to bat at all. Gill had the chance to give him more game time in Ahmedabad, but in search of a massive win, he underused Nitish. This game, though, offers another chance.

Judging by pre-match statements from the Indian camp, they should go with an unchanged line-up as they seek a happy ending. West Indies, surviving on a ventilator, need a miracle to alter that script. There's a fine line between confidence and complacency, and a conscious India, with World Test Championship points up for grabs, won't be taking things lightly.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (front) would look to make a bigger contribution while lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah would be keen to reassert his class after an up and down journey in recent months. PTI

Schedule is mentally more taxing for Gill

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Since the Border-Gavaskar Trophy from November last year, Shubman Gill **(in pic)**, the new superstar of Indian cricket, has played quite literally non-stop, missing just one series.

After the five Tests against Australia that concluded in January, the 26-year-old took part in a three-match ODI series at home against England in February, then immediately flew out to Dubai for the Champions Trophy and returned home to lead Gujarat Titans in the IPL without a break. He then boarded the flight to England to lead India in a gruelling five-Test series, which was followed by the Asia Cup in the UAE, where he was named Suryakumar Yadav's deputy.

Before he could even catch a breath, Gill returned home for the ongoing two-Test series against the West Indies, and within days of this rubber finishing, the Punjabi heads to Australia, where he will lead in a three-match ODI series as the new captain. That will be followed by a 5-match T20I series. Next on the agenda is the full-fledged series against South Africa at home—two Tests, three ODIs and 5T20Is starting November 14—where, as the captain in two formats and deputy in the shortest one, he's expected to play all of it.

Once the South Africa assignment gets done on December 19, he's certain to feature in three ODIs and five T20Is against New Zealand at home beginning January 11. That will be followed by the T20 World Cup at home and Sri Lanka. Add the responsibility of leadership, and it's physically, mentally and emotionally taxing. Gill, who has missed just the T20I series against England in January because he was not in the scheme of things then, admitted the schedule is mentally taxing but is ready for the challenge.

"I think physically most of the time I feel fine, but sometimes there is mental fatigue because when you are constantly playing, there is obviously a certain expectation that I have for myself, and to be able to keep up with my own expectations sometimes becomes a challenge. That's the challenge to be able to play all the formats for India. I want to play all the formats. I want to succeed in all the formats for the country, win all the ICC titles. If I want to do that, this is the challenge I have to go through," said Gill in a press conference here on Thursday.

Speaking to the media for the first time since his elevation as ODI skipper, Gill said his goal is to take Indian cricket to greater heights. "It was announced in the middle of a Test match, but I got to know little before that. It's a big responsibility and an even bigger honour. So, I'm very excited to lead my country in that format, and yes, the last few months have been very exciting for me, but I'm really looking forward to, you know, what the future has. I want to stay as present as possible and don't really want to look back on what I've been able to achieve or what we, as a team, have been able to achieve. Win everything we have."

Gill said his team is guarded against complacency in the second and final Test against the West Indies starting Friday. "I don't think your intensity drops down depending on the opposition. It doesn't matter who we are playing, whether West Indies, Bangladesh, Australia, or England. We want to be able to play at our own intensity, and we want to win."

IN BRIEF

Basketball 'A' div from today

▸ The State A Division League Basketball Championship for Men, featuring the Prof NC Parappa Memorial Trophy, tips off on Friday at MNK Rao Park in Basavangudi in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

The three-day event, from Oct10-12, will see Young Orion's Sports Club, Bank of Baroda, DK District Basketball Association, DYES Sports Hostel, Beagles, JSC, Viveks SC, Southern Blues, KSP and MNK Rao Park BC in fray.

K'taka girls lose in semifinals

▸ In a closely-fought contest, Karnataka suffered a 48-53 defeat Maharashtra in the girls semifinals of the 50th Sub-Junior National Basketball Championship in Dehradun on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Karnataka will now fight it out against Kerala for a bronze medal on Friday.

Snigdha, Agarwal win

▸ Snigdha Kanta and Mannan Agarwal entered the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship semifinals on Thursday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Vani takes one-shot lead

▸ Vani Kapoor got off to her best ever start in the Hero Women's Indian Open as she put together a superb 5-under 67, giving her a one-shot lead after the first round on Thursday, reports PTI from Gurugram.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd Test: India vs West Indies **(day 1, 9:30 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

Women's World Cup: Bangladesh vs New Zealand **(3 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

TENNIS

Shanghai Masters: Quarterfinals **(12:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

World Cup Qualifiers: Belgium vs North Macedonia, France vs Azerbaijan, Germany vs Luxembourg, Northern Ireland vs Slovakia **(all 12:15 am, Saturday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

'Kohli, Rohit part of '27 WC plan'

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The moment Shubman Gill was handed the reins of ODI captaincy from Rohit Sharma for the upcoming series against Australia, it has appeared like the selectors are ready to look beyond the Mumbaikar and his longtime colleague Virat Kohli as they build a squad for the 2027 World Cup.

Rumours have started swirling that Rohit and Virat, having already quit from T2oIs and Test cricket, could finally bid international goodbye, probably in Australia or in the two upcoming series in India — against South Africa and New Zealand. Gill, however, said the legendary duo are very much part of the plans for the mega event in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

"The experience they have and the number of matches they have won for India, there are very few players who have won these many matches for India. With such skill, quality and experience, there are very few players in the world. From that perspective, we are definitely looking at them for 2027," said Gill at a press conference on Thursday.

Rohit Sharma (left) and Virat Kohli. AFP FILE PHOTO

Rohit, Kohli likely to play Vijay Hazare Trophy

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are expected to feature in at least three if not four Vijay Hazare Trophy games before the New Zealand ODI series in January, provided they are still aiming to play the 2027 World Cup.

Between the conclusion of South Africa ODIs and start of New Zealand leg, there will be at least six rounds of Vijay Hazare Trophy games for Delhi and Mumbai and the national selectors would expect that the ageing duo play in the 50-over event.

With chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar making it clear that every centrally contracted player, who is fit and available, is expected to play domestic cricket.

"The Vijay Hazare Trophy starts on Dec 24. There will be six rounds of games for Mumbai (Dec 24, 26, 29, 31, Jan 3, 6, 8). Rohit will be expected to at least play three rounds. Ditto for Virat," a BCCI source told PTI.

Retirement was a personal decision, not forced: Ashwin

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has clarified that his decision to retire from the game was a personal call and "no one forced" him to call it quits midway into the Test tour of Australia tour last year.

Ashwin, 39, stunned the cricket fraternity by announcing his retirement after the third Test of the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Brisbane last year.

Subsequently, he also announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League (IPL) in August this year.

"No one told me that you should go, no one told me that there is no place for you in the team. Actually before I took the decision 2-3 people told me not to take it but I took my decision," Ashwin said on his youtube channel.

"Rohit Sharma (the then captain) also told me to think about it, Gauti bhai (Gautam Gambhir) also told me to think again. But I didn't talk much about it (retirement) with Ajit Agarkar (chairman of selectors)."

'Rebel' all-rounder & WI's quiet legend

Bernard Julien
(1950-2025)

PARIS, AFP

Dashing West Indian all-rounder Bernard Julien, whose career encompassed the high of winning the 1975 World Cup and the low of a lifetime ban for a rebel tour of apartheid-era South Africa, has died aged 75.

Julien suffered from the pressure of being hailed by some as the successor to the legendary Garry Sobers.

He did get to play in the same side as Sobers, in a Test at Lord's in 1973 against England, and they put on a show to remember.

Their seventh-wicket partnership of 155 -- compiled in under two hours -- remains a record for the West Indies against England.

Sobers was not out on 150, the last of his 26 Test centuries, and Julien hit 121.

However, Julien, who played English county cricket for Kent, never really progressed in Test cricket from that high.

He played 24 Tests, scoring 866 runs at an average of 30.92 and took 50 wickets at 37.36. In one-day Internationals, he claimed 18 wickets at 25.72.

It was in the one-day format he realised perhaps his career high, playing a pivotal role in the triumphant West Indies campaign which led to them beating Australia to be crowned the inaugural world champions in 1975 -- back at Lord's.

"Bernard Julien was one of the quiet legends of the 1975 World Cup, a tournament that 50 years ago brought this region joy like no other as the West Indies lifted the first men's world title in the history of the game," wrote Kishore Shallow, president of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) in his tribute to Julien.

"His skill and composure were central to that victory."

After that, Julien blotted his copybook by signing up for Kerry Packer's World Series of Cricket, following the example of many of the world's leading cricketers.

However, he brought the curtain down on his international career in ignominious fashion when he joined the 1982-1983 and 1983-1984 West Indies rebel tour of South Africa, then considered a pariah state due to its apartheid policy, for a reported £60,000 ($80,000).

Many of the rebels were far from household names and stars like Julien, Alvin Kallicharan, Colin Croft and Lawrence Rowe were largely past their prime.

That did not spare them from severe punishment, and aside from that were regarded as traitors and ostracised socially.

Arshad hat-trick fires HAL home

BENGALURU, DHNS: MD Arshad scored a hat-trick as HAL FC posted to a 3-0 win over Bangalore Dream United FC in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

Arshad opened the scoring in the 28th minute and doubled the tally in the 63rd. He then completed his hat-trick 11 minutes later to take the game out of their opponents' reach.

In the day's other games, goals from Dinesh S and Sahil Rashid Dar helped Rebels FC register a 2-0 win over United Stars FC, while Roots FC and Parikrama FC played out a 0-0 draw.

Players of HAL SC celebrate after scoring a goal against Bangalore Dream United at the BFS on Thursday.
DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Results: HAL FC: 3 (MD Arshad 28th, 63rd, 74th) bt Bangalore Dream United FC: 0; Rebels FC: 2 (Dinesh S 39th, Sahil Rashid Dar 42nd) bt United Stars FC: 1 (Saravana Kumar 60th); Roots FC: 0 drew with Parikrama FC: 0.

Flintoff felt 'undervalued'

LONDON, AFP: England cricket legend Andrew Flintoff has walked away from his role as coach of the Northern Superchargers after feeling undervalued by the new owners of The Hundred franchise.

Indian media conglomerate the Sun Group recently took control of the Superchargers as part of the influx of new investors into the competition.

Flintoff, 47, has been coach for the past two seasons, finishing fourth in 2024 before reaching the Eliminator this year.

Flintoff is head coach of the England Lions.

India escape with late draw

SINGAPORE, PTI

A 10-man India capitalised on a defensive blunder from Singapore at the fag end of play to escape with 1-1 draw and keep their Asian Cup football qualification hopes afloat here on Thursday.

India conceded a goal scored by Ikhsan Fandi in the first minute of the first half's stoppage time to find themselves in the backfoot in the Group C match. But Rahim Ali equalised in the 90th minute after Singapore's Jordan Emaviwe gifted a goal by committing a horrible blunder.

Khalid Jamil's team, which arrived here with just around a week's time of training together, played the whole of the second half with 10 men as key defender Sandesh Jhingan was sent off after receiving his second yellow card in the 47th minute. Jhingan was playing with a black face mask as he had recovered from a cheek bone fracture during the CAFA Nations Cup last month, which needed surgery.

India now have two points from three matches after a 0-0 draw against Bangladesh and 0-1 loss to Hong Kong in their earlier match. They are still in a difficult position in their bid to qualify for the main tournament in 2027.

India's Rahim Ali (centre) celebrates after scoring the equaliser against Singapore on Thursday. AIFF MEDIA

Salah takes Egypt to WC

JOHANNESBURG, AFP: Liverpool star Mohamed Salah scored twice to help Egypt beat Djibouti 3-0 in Casablanca on Wednesday and qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

The 33-year-old has now netted nine times in a marathon qualifying campaign that began two years ago, and victory for Egypt gave them an unassailable five-point lead over Burkina Faso in Group A.

Twice African Footballer of the Year, Salah helped Liverpool win the Premier League a record-equalling 20th time last season.

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